

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

March 1994

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MINNEAPOLIS
CONVENTION PREVIEW
PAGE 30

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 136, No. 3

March 1994

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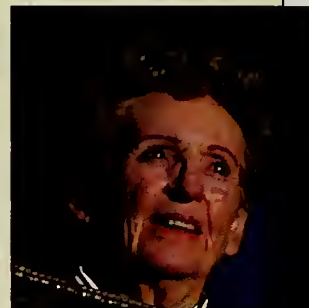
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The United States withheld information from Jane Duke Gaylor about her MIA son Charles Duke. She and other POW/MIA family members search for the truth despite the government's runaround. See page 18. Photograph by Charlie Riedel.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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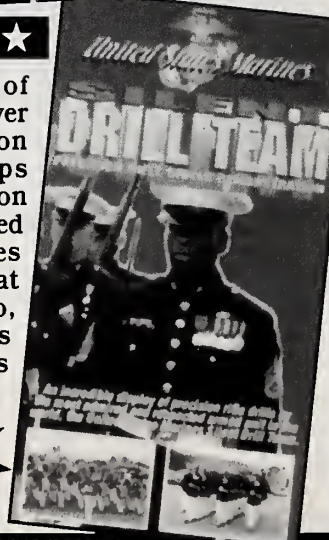
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No Joke

I am 11 years old. My father was a Marine during the Vietnam War. I wait faithfully each month for THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. I look for the jokes in the back of the magazine. I was very concerned as well as disappointed when the JOKES WERE GONE in the January issue. I want my jokes BACK!

*Erica Dawn Cooper
Midway, Pa.*

Editor's note: As Erica saw in the February issue, Parting Shots has returned to the magazine's last page. The many letters and calls from the page's fans reminded us just how popular Parting Shots is. Our aim will be true in future issues.

Thank You

I want to thank National Commander Bruce Thiesen, his staff and all members of The American Legion for supporting the legislation to raise the Medal of Honor pension from \$200 to \$400 per month. I can assure you that the 200 living Medal of Honor recipients in this great nation of ours appreciate it.

Many thanks also to the congressmen and senators who participated; to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown; to Richard J. Bernard, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Services in New Jersey, who spearheaded this legislation; to the state veterans services across the nation; and to President Clinton who signed it into law.

I have been a life member of The American Legion since I came out of the service in 1945, and I am honored and proud of it.

*Charles A. MacGillivray
Past President
Congressional Medal of Honor
Society, U.S.A.
Braintree, Mass.*

America For Americans

The interview with Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. ("Stop Pulling America Apart," December) should be placed in the hands of every public school board in the United States. In the last speech President Theodore Roosevelt gave in New York in 1919, part of

what he said was:

"We have room for only one language here, and that is the English language for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans, of American nationality and not as a dwelling in a polyglot boarding house; and we have room for one soul loyalty, and that is a loyalty to the American people."

*Edwin L. Peterson
Professor Emeriti
Utah State University
Logan, Utah*

After ridding themselves of the king, the one thing that was common to the 13 colonies was the English language. This bond was strong enough to unite them to form a nation. New immigrants accepted this bond and learned English. We must reverse the trend toward multiple languages. We learn and benefit and absorb diverse cultures and heritages, but English must be declared the official language of the United States.

*William G. Carter
San Jose, Calif.*

I'm a first generation American who is very tired of hearing terms

such as African-American, Asian-American, Mexican-American. My mother was from Norway and my father from Sweden. They always considered themselves Americans, not Euro-Americans.

Being an American does not require abandonment of one's culture, nor does it require a two-word description.

*Caroline E. Dunham
Williamsport, Md.*

Veterans On The Beat

President Clinton's anti-crime bill calls for 100,000 new policemen to be added to law enforcement. Unemployed or returning ex-military police should be hired for these jobs. Because of their military training, the cost of police training would be reduced.

*Eldon D. Sherland
Richland, Wash.*

Back To Iraqis

I was shocked to find out that our government is spending our tax dollars to resettle Iraqi soldiers in the United States ("Iraqis In America," Vetvoice, December). We should find out who supported this and vote the jerks out of office.

*Myrle W. Peacock
New Concord, Ky.*

Iraqi refugees are very carefully screened by State Department personnel, police and intelligence officials from many countries, as well as by private voluntary organizations which undertake their resettlement. There is no \$7,000 cash grant. Like all refugees, Iraqis are eligible for eight months of refugee cash assistance, Medicaid and food stamps. Relatively few require these benefits.

The majority of those accepted are either Kurds or Shiite Moslems, both persecuted minorities in Iraq. Their service to the Iraqi military was anything but voluntary. Most of these people left their unit long before the ground war began and many participated in the rebellion following the Gulf War. Others assisted coalition units during some portion of the war.

Please turn page

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In the past year, I have arranged the resettlement of four such men, and a few others are still awaiting approval in Saudi Arabia. Of the four, two are victims of torture and have the scars to prove it. All four have had close family executed for their opposition to the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein, and all are sentenced to death should they return to Iraq.

These resettlements that began under the Bush administration and have continued under the Clinton administration would never have become an issue if it were not for a group of relatively junior members of the House of Representatives who saw a way to use veterans and retirees to perpetuate their undeserved stay in Washington. Wake up folks, you are being used.

*Maj. Edwin C. MacNeil (USAF-Ret.)
Diocesan Refugee Coordinator
Episcopal Migration Ministries
North Hampton, N.H.*

I think it's an absolute disgrace that the government never mentioned anything about this \$7,000 grant. The Iraqis were firing at and killing our boys over there. Our senators and representatives should know why we're giving grants to these people.

*Rich Gagain
Bethel, Conn.*

Tempered Memories

I was born and raised in Duquesne, Pa., and the article "A Pox on America" (November, by Drew Lindsay) rekindled many memories of this steel town. There should be a monument in Washington, D.C., for the many immigrant laborers who were killed and maimed in the mill towns along the Monongahela River. The steel they produced was mixed with their blood.

*Michael Fedor
Hollidaysburg, Pa.*

WWII Addendum

The articles commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II "On the March" and "Island Hopping in the Pacific" (December, by Rick Hampton) were very well-written, giving many details. But I would like to add two small additions. First, the

Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto on April 19, 1943: For almost three weeks they heroically fought — sometimes with bare hands — against the Nazi invaders.

Second, on April 13, 1943, the German Army Command announced the discovery of more than 4,000 graves in the Katyn Forest of Polish officers captured by Russians when the Soviet Union helped Hitler by attacking Poland on Sept. 17, 1939.

During World War II, I fought the German Occupation Army and the Russian communist partisans at the same time because both of them were mortal enemies to me and my homeland. Two members of my family were executed.

*Konrad Loboeki
Columbia, S.C.*

Native Names

Politicians are so transparently phony, it makes decent people sick. I suggest that Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who wants to rename the Washington Redskins football team (Washington Watch, "Skinning the Skins," November), demand that the Navajo Reservation School in North-eastern Arizona change the name of its football team. A large sign in front of the school proudly proclaims: "Home of the Redskins."

*James A. Sumner
Sedona, Ariz.*

Washington Watch columnist Cliff Kincaid states that Sen. Campbell is the only Native American in the Senate. I would like to introduce Kincaid to our senator, Daniel K. Akaka of Hawaii, who, being part-Hawaiian, qualifies as a Native American. He prides himself as native born and is a member of the U.S. Senate Veterans Committee and Honolulu Post 1.

*Stephen L. Desha
Honolulu*

Wrong Division

Your article, "Island Hopping In The Pacific" (December, by Rick Hampton) states that on Nov. 1, 1943, the 1st Marine Division under Lt. Gen. A.A. Vandegrift stormed the western beaches on Bougainville. The only thing wrong

with this statement is that it was the 3rd Marine Division that stormed the beaches of Bougainville's western coast. I should know — I was there!

*M.A. Grisvold
Maple Grove, Minn.*

Editor's note: Thanks to reader Grisvold and all the other readers who pointed out this mistake. Our apologies.

Boise VA Thanked

The December issue criticizes the Boise, Idaho, VA hospital ("Legion Criticizes VA Outpatient Care," Legion News). I'm an outpatient there, and this hospital has saved my life twice in the past four years. I am 71 years old and on low income. I couldn't ask for better treatment. My wife is also in the State Veterans Home in Boise. Her treatment there has been super.

*LeRoy A. Cain
Boise, Idaho*

Voices Heard From

I'd like to let all you World War II guys in on some good reading. It's the book, *Voices: Letters from World War II* by Ken Scharnberg. It's a collection of many letters that reminds us of those eventful years — things like ducking lead and shells, and rationing. You have to read it to know what a special memorial it is.

*Michael Luciano
Westport, Conn.*

Editor's Note: You can still order your copy of *Voices: Letters from World War II* by sending \$29.95 plus \$3.50 handling to: Premium Press America, P.O. Box 159015, Nashville, TN 37215-9015.

Missing Missions

It is now known that a split command directly led to American fatalities in Somalia. More than ever, the U.S. military is being used merely to make a statement or to persuade a constituency that couldn't care less about the United States.

It seems to be a bashing of the military and, at other times, it seems to be

Please turn page

To treat symptomatic benign enlarged prostate: Only one medicine can shrink the prostate.

PROSCAR.[®] (FINASTERIDE)

Until recently, there wasn't a medicine that could help the condition known as symptomatic benign prostate enlargement or BPH. But now there is PROSCAR, the first oral prescription medicine that can shrink an enlarged prostate.

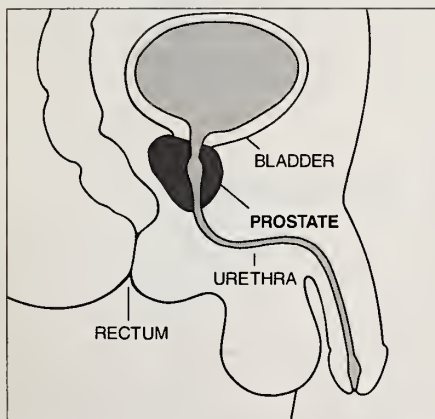
However, it is important to know the following: PROSCAR doesn't work for everyone. Even though your prostate may shrink, you may not see an improvement in urinary flow or symptoms. And you may need to take PROSCAR for 6 months or more to see whether it helps you.

How PROSCAR can shrink an enlarged prostate.

As a man ages, a key hormone can help cause the prostate to grow. PROSCAR actually blocks the production of this hormone, so it helps shrink the prostate to a smaller size in many men. As a result, some men treated with PROSCAR experience an increased urinary flow and an improvement in urinary symptoms.

Why you should see your doctor soon.

Your doctor has several options for the treatment of symptomatic BPH: watchful waiting (monitor-



The prostate surrounds part of the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder. As the prostate enlarges, it can squeeze the urethra and cause urinary problems.



ing the condition with regular checkups), medication, or surgery. It's important to see your doctor because the problem doesn't usually get better by itself. In many cases, the prostate continues to enlarge and the symptoms may get worse. So if your urinary symptoms are bothering you, have your family doctor or a urologist assess your condition and ask if PROSCAR is an appropriate treatment for you.

It is also important to have regular checkups. *While benign prostate enlargement is not cancer and does not lead to cancer, the two conditions can exist at the same time.*

Remember, only a doctor can evaluate your symptoms and their possible causes. So, if your urinary symptoms are bothering you, don't wait any longer. You may find that your enlarged prostate can be made into a smaller problem.

For more information about prostate enlargement and PROSCAR, call 1-800-635-4452 today.

TABLETS
PROSCAR[®] 5mg
(FINASTERIDE)



PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT PROSCAR® (Prah-s-car) Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

PROSCAR is for the treatment of symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia and for use by men only.

Your doctor may prescribe PROSCAR if you have a medical condition called benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH. This occurs only in men.

Please read this information, as well as the leaflet which accompanies your medication, before you start taking PROSCAR. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROSCAR when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is BPH?

BPH is an enlargement of the prostate gland. After age 50, most men develop enlarged prostates. The prostate is located below the bladder. As the prostate enlarges, it may slowly restrict the flow of urine. This can lead to symptoms such as:

- a weak or interrupted urinary stream
- a feeling that you cannot empty your bladder completely
- a feeling of delay or hesitation when you start to urinate
- a need to urinate often, especially at night
- a feeling that you must urinate right away.

Treatment options for BPH

There are three main treatment options for BPH:

- **Program of monitoring or "Watchful Waiting".** If a man has an enlarged prostate gland and no symptoms or if his symptoms do not bother him, he and his doctor may decide on a program of monitoring which would include regular checkups, instead of medication or surgery.
- **Medication.** Your doctor may prescribe PROSCAR for BPH. See "What PROSCAR does" below.
- **Surgery.** Some patients may need surgery. Your doctor can describe several different surgical procedures for BPH. Which procedure is best depends on your symptoms and medical condition.

What PROSCAR does

PROSCAR lowers levels of a key hormone called DHT (dihydrotestosterone), which is a major cause of prostate growth. Lowering DHT leads to shrinkage of the enlarged prostate gland in most men. This can lead to gradual improvement in urine flow and symptoms over the next several months. However, since each case of BPH is different, you should know that:

- Even though the prostate shrinks, you may NOT see an improvement in urine flow or symptoms.
- You may need to take PROSCAR for six (6) months or more to see whether it helps you.
- Even though you take PROSCAR and it may help you, it is not known whether PROSCAR reduces the need for surgery.

What you need to know while taking PROSCAR

- **You must see your doctor regularly.** While taking PROSCAR, you must have regular checkups. Follow your doctor's advice about when to have these checkups.
- **About side effects.** Like all prescription drugs, PROSCAR may cause side effects. Side effects due to PROSCAR may include impotence (or inability to have an erection) and less desire for sex. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 4% of patients in clinical studies. In some cases side effects went away while the patient continued to take PROSCAR.

Some men taking PROSCAR® (Finasteride) may have a decrease in the amount of semen released during sex. This decrease does not appear to interfere with normal sexual function.

You should discuss side effects with your doctor before taking PROSCAR and anytime you think you are having a side effect.

• **Checking for prostate cancer.** Your doctor has prescribed PROSCAR for symptomatic BPH and not for cancer—but a man can have BPH and prostate cancer at the same time. Doctors usually recommend that men be checked for prostate cancer once a year when they turn 50 (or 40 if a family member has had prostate cancer). These checks should continue while you take PROSCAR. PROSCAR is not a treatment for prostate cancer.

• **About prostate specific antigen (PSA).** Your doctor may have done a blood test called PSA. PROSCAR can alter PSA values. For more information, talk to your doctor.

• A warning about PROSCAR and pregnancy.

PROSCAR is for use by MEN only.

PROSCAR is generally well tolerated in men. However, women who are pregnant, or women who could become pregnant, should avoid the active ingredient in PROSCAR.

If the active ingredient is absorbed by a woman who is pregnant with a male baby, it may cause the male baby to be born with abnormalities of the sex organs. Therefore, any woman who is pregnant or who could become pregnant must not come into direct contact with the active ingredient in PROSCAR.

Two of the ways in which a woman might absorb the active ingredient in PROSCAR are:

Sexual contact. Your semen may contain a small amount of the active ingredient of the drug. If your partner is pregnant, or if you and your partner decide to have a baby, you must stop taking PROSCAR and talk to your doctor. If your partner could become pregnant, proper use of a condom can reduce the risk of exposing her to your semen (discuss this further with your doctor).

Handling broken tablets. Women who are pregnant or who could become pregnant must not handle broken tablets of PROSCAR.

PROSCAR tablets are coated to prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling. If this coating is broken, the tablets should not be handled by women who are pregnant or who could become pregnant.

If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROSCAR, a doctor should be consulted. Remember, these warnings apply only if the woman exposed to PROSCAR is pregnant or could become pregnant.

How to take PROSCAR

Follow your doctor's advice about how to take PROSCAR. You must take it every day. You may take it with or between meals. To avoid forgetting to take PROSCAR, it may be helpful to take it the same time every day.

Do not share PROSCAR with anyone else; it was prescribed only for you.

Keep PROSCAR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROSCAR AND BPH, TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR. IN ADDITION, TALK TO YOUR PHARMACIST OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.



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merely some kind of game with the military moved around like pawns on a chess board.

The influence of The American Legion should be most effective if directed to putting the glare of light on inept direction and errant policy.

John R. Davis
Springfield, Pa

The Best

At a recent meeting of the 26th Yankee Division Veterans Association, a group with members in all veterans' organizations, a discussion was held about publications and magazines. All in the discussion agreed that THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, by far, was the best magazine published by a veterans' organization.

Rev. Paul E. Sanborn
Past National Chaplain, AMVETS
Lanham, Md.

Initially, I joined the Legion because it promotes a strong America, based on sound, moral principles. But I now look forward to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE each month. Keep up the good work.

R.D. Potter
Cincinnati

Great Writing

National Commander Bruce Thiesen, I want to commend the Commander's Messages you have written. They are great and timely. I go back in the Legion since 1919 and have read many good articles over the years, but never any better than those you have written. I still go to my Post meetings when I can. How's that for the last of the charter members?

Lester Hansen
Renton, Wash.

No Game

I do not consider the casualties for a given number of years to be a point of contention between Korean and Vietnam war history ("Remembering Korea," Vetvoice, November, from Tom Magedanz). It was not a football game with the winners or losers determined by the number of combat dead.

Jesse Evans Jr.
Sheridan, Texas □

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SSHES3

AMERICA'S POW/MIA POLICY IS MISSING IN ACTION

HOW DO you make peace? Some say, in the case of Vietnam, America should lift its economic embargo and reward Hanoi for its "cooperation" on the POW/MIA issue.

I believe, however, that making such a unilateral concession is not characteristic of good diplomacy, but rather indicative of bad negotiating, and a willingness to break the faith with those who bore the battle.

When it comes to Vietnam, our failures at the table have continually — since the Vietnam War — negated our victories on the battlefield. Now we're once again putting our nation in position to come up on the losing end of this bargain with Vietnam.

It appears we are seeking business opportunities, not POW/MIAs.

The New York Times, for instance, editorialized that "The best reason to end the U.S. economic embargo on Vietnam is that it no longer serves American interests. With the rest of the world trading freely with Hanoi, the embargo punishes American businesses far more than it punishes the Vietnamese."

The American Legion believes that obtaining the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs is the paramount American interest, not satisfying oil companies and big business. Placing profits above POWs is wrong and we will not support it. The Clinton administration, conversely, has praised Vietnam's cooperation on the POW/MIA issue and has begun to entertain the idea of rewarding Hanoi for its help. Here's why that's a bad idea:

- Vietnam's so-called cooperation on the POW/MIA issue is merely proof that they have continually lied to us in the past and are unworthy of our trust. They continue to trickle out remains of our MIAs and offer pomp



Nat'l. Cmdr. Bruce Thiesen

and circumstance tours of crash sites — all to sway America into pumping cash into their economy.

And why not? It's working. Last year, Clinton eased the U.S. embargo by allowing International Monetary Fund (IMF) monies to flow into Vietnam. This gift was our reward for their token cooperation, from tours of military museums that we already knew about to the less than magic return of former POW Sen. John McCain's flight helmet.

Every time a set of remains is recovered, we hear talk of rewarding Vietnam. Aren't the Vietnamese merely delivering — piecemeal — on a promise they made nearly two decades ago? They lied to us for 20 years and now that they trickle out some — but not all — of the truth, they want a reward. And it looks like we're going to give them one, even though we have never heard anything resembling remorse.

What type of message does this send to other nations who may hold our POWs in future wars?

- The \$1.9 million, 15-month investigation of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs was subverted by those who wanted POW/MIAs to become a dead issue. Key testimony was stricken from the final report and conclusions were edited for political neutrality, rather than clarity. Perhaps the worst example of this committee's investigative mechanism was when all the senators except Sen. Bob Smith walked out on a briefing given by the committee's leading POW investigators. They weren't willing to hear the analysis of their own investigators because it was expected to show evidence of live POWs as late as 1989. (See "POW/MIAs: The Suffering and the Secrecy," Page 18.)

- The communist regime responsible for the treatment and fate of our POW/MIAs is still running Vietnam. It would be wrong to recognize this government. Mistakes have been made and promises broken. Our last opportunity to do the right thing is upon us.

Why should we continue to fight for a full accounting when our own government has given up on the men we left behind? What purpose does it serve to maintain an economic embargo on Vietnam when there is money to be made there and every other nation is doing business with Hanoi?

America is not just another country. We are a nation that has a covenant with its people and a covenant with its defenders. We tell our troops that we will never leave them behind. There's little question we've failed to bring them home in the past. We must commit ourselves to keeping our covenant in the future.

To reward Vietnam is to declare our POWs to be acceptable losses. As our sons and daughters will find out, whenever we agree to acceptable losses, we usually get the losses we think are acceptable. The lives of America's POWs and their families must never be put in such a category. □



Plate shown smaller than actual size of 8" (20.32 cm) in diameter.

The first-ever collector plate by award-winning animal artist Nigel Hemming.

Proud. Energetic. Faithful...and one of the most popular sporting dogs in the world. A pair of beautiful Black Labradors, whose shining coats and clear eyes show they're well loved.

That's the goal of the Society for the Protection of Animals—Europe, whose devoted efforts ensure that domestic animals always receive the very best of care. Now, to raise awareness of their valiant crusade, they present "Sporting Companions"—the first-ever collector plate by award-winning artist Nigel Hemming. In the tradition of the most prized collectibles, this heirloom collector plate is crafted of fine porcelain and lavished with breathtaking color. It is hand-numbered and bordered in 24 karat gold. Each imported plate bears the artist's signature mark on its reverse side. And it arrives with a *free* custom-designed plate stand.

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SHOULD CONGRESS BAN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES?

Rep. Bob Inglis (R-South Carolina)

The United States Congress is awash in special interest money and Americans are rightly asking exactly who is represented in this system.

YES

Pundits are quick to defend Political Action Committees (PACs), saying they consist of small donors with a common interest and a right to free speech.



But why do they need to pool their money? The sole reason for PACs: They buy votes better. There's more bang for their buck if they can pool their money, focus it on their narrow agenda and put it on a few candidates.

The defenders protest that individuals can buy influence, too. Granted, but we have few options other than forcing taxpayers to fund campaigns, an idea I reject.

Instead, I supported the Republican package, which included a historic PAC ban at the behest of myself and other members who refuse special interest money. Since taxpayer financing shouldn't be an option, we have only two possible sources of campaign money: individuals and PACs.

There are three key differences. First, PACs can contribute up to \$10,000 per election cycle, while individuals can contribute up to \$2,000. Career-minded politicians make the distinction and respond accordingly.

Second, individuals are complex and usually base their contributing decisions on many issues. As single-issue entities, PACs zero in on what's best for them.

Third, a growing number of PACs demand that members of Congress sign "purity pledges" virtually guaranteeing the prospective PAC donor a certain vote on an issue. Common decency would prevent most individuals from asking for such a pledge.

A cycle of influence perpetuates: Incumbents accept money from the lobbyists, allow the money to sway their positions on key issues and are re-elected as a result of their strong fund-raising advantage over challengers who have no influence to sell.

Many entrenched incumbents favor keeping the system as is. Nevertheless, there is hope in the growing number of members of Congress who, like me, refuse PAC money. We understand that if we are ever to restore this Congress to the "people's house," we must wrest its control from the cash-rich, easily co-opted members of the old Congress who continue to place their own careers above the good of a nation. ☐

Rep. Glen Browder (D-Alabama)



NO

The key to congressional campaign finance reform is limiting the role of big money, especially special interest contributions, in elections. More specifically, Congress should pass a law setting a spending ceiling somewhere in the \$600,000 range, and limit candidates to no more than a third of that amount in big contributions or in money from Political Action Committees (PACs).

But the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the only way to set spending caps is to provide incentives for candidates to accept limitations voluntarily. While limiting the role of special interest money, however, Congress should not provide taxpayer financing for their political campaigns.

Public financing of campaigns is wrong on at least two counts. First, it would impose an unnecessary and unwanted burden on the American taxpayer. Second, it would encourage members of Congress to spend their time in Washington seeking large, direct contributions from special interests rather than forcing them back into their districts to raise campaign funds—and to answer questions from their constituents.

The special interests whose financial contributions have exerted or appeared to exert an undue influence on the political process include individuals with deep pockets as well as PACs. Both sources should be restricted, but not eliminated.

Why preserve PACs at all? In the first place, banning them probably would be unconstitutional. PACs were established to give the wage earner and other small contributors an opportunity to deal in the same political arena with the rich "fat cats" and corporate executives. I think that is an idea worth protecting.

It is important to keep in mind that big individual contributors actually give more than do PACs. A 1991 study of campaign contributions found that large individual contributions totaled more than \$164 million in the 1990 election, compared with \$112 million for PACs in 1992.

In November, the House passed a Democratic-backed reform bill that includes a \$600,000 spending cap and limits PAC contributions to a third of that. This may not be a perfect solution in everyone's

eyes. The important thing now, however, is to do something — rather than standing in the way of cleaning up the present system. ☐

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Senators and congressmen are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

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We have tested the Controller driving irons on a hitting machine and with every imaginable kind of golfer, from sixth grade kids to lanky six-foot-six pros. We *know* that the Controllers are the longest and easiest-to-hit clubs you can own. But you must see for yourself; so if you don't have time for a full round, hit the Controller-Tee Shot just three times against your driver and the Controller-Fairway driving iron three times against your 3-wood.

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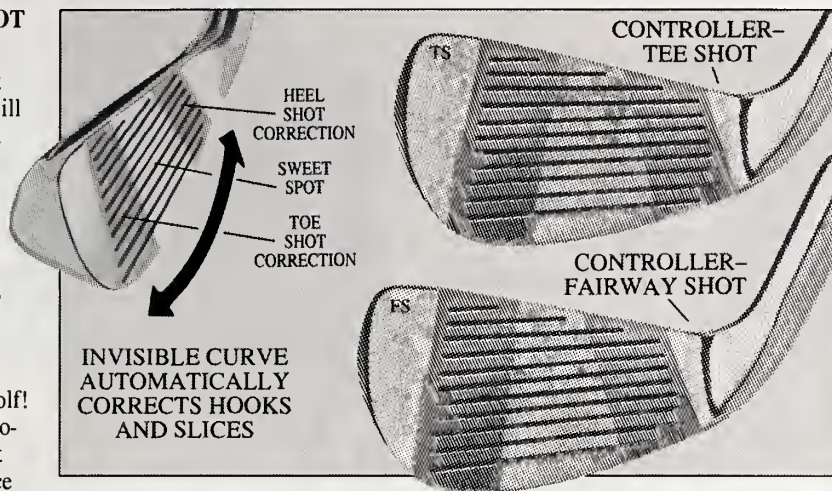
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If you hit off the toe or heel of an ordinary iron you will get a vicious hook or slice. Not so with the Controller driving irons! These two clubs have a patent-pending, fail-safe system we call the "invisible curve". This new scientific design *tames* the abnormal spin imparted to the ball by a toe shot or heel shot. Instead of hooking or slicing into someone's backyard, your shot curves back toward the pin! It's an incredible sight and you can see it for yourself by purposely mis-hitting the ball. **THIS, PLUS THE CONTROLLER'S EXTRA 30-50 YARDS, AND YOU ARE VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED TO CUT 5-10 STROKES OFF YOUR GAME.**

Here are more reasons why the Controller driving irons are going to give you the best golf of your life...

- They give you the power of a driver with control of an iron...
- Their sleek, smooth heads swing through grass more cleanly than a wood...

THE CONTROLLER DRIVING IRONS HIT LONGER AND STRAIGHTER THAN ANY OTHER CLUBS IN GOLF. IF THEY DON'T CUT 5-10 STROKES, YOU OWE US NOTHING! ACT NOW!



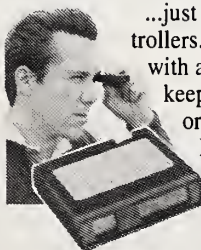
- The Controller-Tee Shot's 14° loft gets the ball up faster than a driver...
 - The Controller-Fairway's 17° loft gets the ball up faster than a 3-wood...
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Again, if the Controller Tee-Shot and Fairway driving irons don't hit farther than your current driver and fairway woods... if they don't keep your long game straight to the pin... if they don't cut 5-10 strokes off your score... you owe us nothing!

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Battle Lines

Bolstered by grass roots efforts, bills to outlaw "unfunded mandates" from Washington are poised to pass in both chambers of Congress. As a result, local governments could free up more funds for law enforcement and public safety.

State and local governments often have to pay the cost of implementing laws and regulations required by Washington. These Federal mandates are called "hidden taxes" because they are unfunded by Washington and must be implemented and paid for by state and local governments. A survey released by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that nearly 12 percent of local government revenues must be set aside just to pay for 10 federal mandates currently imposed on local governments by Washington.

President Clinton, responding to increasing concern from state and local governments, signed an executive order last year calling for a reduction in unfunded mandates. But mayors and governors want more — a federal law requiring the federal government to pay for the cost of mandated bills.

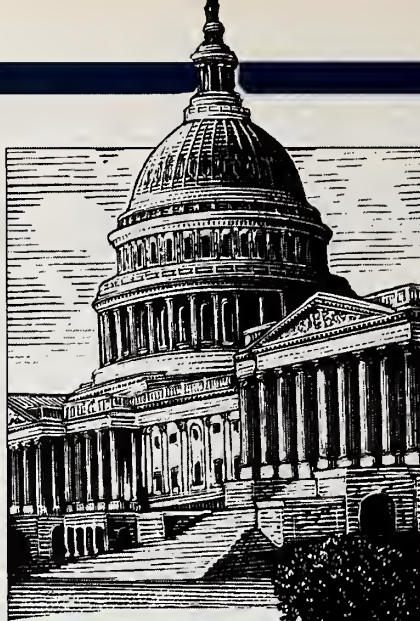
The mayors staged a National Unfunded Mandates Day on Oct. 27 last year, which went largely unnoticed. But a grass roots movement calling itself the National Unfunded Mandates Campaign hopes to attract the attention of Congress with simultaneous press conferences in all 50 states on tax day, April 15.

Damage Control

Some prominent veterans are expected to be appointed to high positions at the Pentagon and on the National Security Council.

These anticipated actions are viewed as an attempt to deflect charges that the Clinton administration discriminates against veterans in its hiring. The charges, first raised by John Wheeler, former chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, took on political importance when *The Washington Post's* David Broder publicized them in a nationally syndicated column. Broder's interest sparked concern by White House counselor David Gergen, who promised to collect and

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

release figures on veterans appointments and improve the administration's performance.

"We list everything else around here," Gergen reportedly said, referring to White House figures on women and minority hirings.

Deputy National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, a close friend of the President, was also reported to be concerned about fallout from the charges. Joining Wheeler's campaign were Lewis Puller Jr., the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and former hostage Terry Anderson. All three supported Clinton during the campaign.

Crime Watch

Laws that increase sentences for serious offenders called, "Three Strikes, You're Out," are catching on across America. And they're getting tougher.

First passed in Washington state, the measure increased sentences for three-time violent felons. But a "Three Strikes" proposal being circulated in the form of an initiative petition in California would double penalties for second time offenders and put three-timers away for life.

The measures are attracting increasing interest among legislators because of the likelihood that new federal legislation would provide funds for pris-

ons in states that crack down on repeat violent offenders.

Betrayal on Gays?

Upset by the administration's handling of court cases involving gays in the military, members of Congress are considering intervention on their own through a legal brief before the Supreme Court. Congressional briefs are not unheard of, but if this one goes forward — with the participation of Sen. Sam Nunn — it could spark another major confrontation with the White House.

Many lawmakers are concerned that the administration is trying to hand the homosexuals a victory in the courts that they could not win in the House and Senate. They say evidence of this strategy can be found in the belated and limited Justice Department appeal of a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that reinstated gay sailor Joseph Steffan. Opponents of gays in the military claim the appeal, as well as the Pentagon's new regulations on homosexuality, seem designed to elevate homosexual "orientation" to protected status within the Armed Forces.

AIDS Transmission

Alarmed by reports that AIDS can be spread in certain instances by casual contact, some members of Congress are quietly urging changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA law treats AIDS and other infectious diseases as handicaps requiring government protection.

It has been used to force dentists to treat AIDS patients, force morticians to handle AIDS-related deaths and to permit AIDS-infected children in schools and day-care centers. ADA was also cited by a federal judge in a ruling allowing a Washington, D.C., firefighter to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, even though he was a carrier of hepatitis B.

While the Centers for Disease Control has disparaged most reports of casual AIDS transmission, others say evidence indicates the disease can be spread by prolonged contact, such as among children who live or play together. A reported case late year of AIDS transmission among children is what prompted the fresh concern on Capitol Hill. But, AIDS activists say any changes in ADA could provoke unnecessary fear and hysteria. □

**POW
MIAs**

The Suffering And The Secrecy

By Mark Sauter and Jim Sanders

These three stories tell of families' courage, government inaction and politicians' manipulations. They reveal why this tragedy must never be repeated.

CHARLIE RIEDEL



Jane Duke Gaylor

FOR THE FAMILIES of America's POW/MIAs, the past has been filled with broken promises and tattered faith. In 1992, a special Senate investigation revealed to all Americans what these families already knew: U.S. POW/MIAs were abandoned after World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War.

In the hope that confronting the mistakes of the past will save the lives of U.S. POW/MIAs in future wars, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE is printing these excerpts from the book, *The Men We Left Behind: Henry Kissinger, the Politics of Deceit and the Tragic Fate of POWs After The Vietnam War*, by Mark Sauter and Jim Sanders. The American Legion is determined that the tragedies described in these pages will never happen again.

Published by National Press Books, *The Men We Left Behind* is available to veterans and their families for \$19.95, or \$23.95 for other orders (plus \$4 shipping and handling). Call (800) 275-8888.



COLONEL CHARLES WATERHOUSE

What One Mother Now Knows

A SEARING anger was building inside Jane Duke Gaylor that warm July day as she waited to see the President of the United States. It was more than a mother could bear, staring again and again at the sketch clutched in her hands, comparing it with long-ago memories and faded snapshots. And knowing that while her MIA son, Charles Duke, may have been alive in Vietnam — years during which she could have been



COURTESY OF JANE GAYLOR



POW/MIA PORTRAITS: TOP—

For years the U.S. hid this sketch of an American seen in Hanoi during the 1970s. The face resembles MIA Charles Duke, above.

FAR LEFT—*Duke's mother says, "my son or not, it's someone's son."*

LEFT—*Artist's version of a Laotian prison nicknamed Fort Apache.*

But Jane Gaylor and the families knew better. Gaylor had learned the truth just the day before, when a State Department bureaucrat finally handed the 71-year-old woman a sketch, the kind done by police artists. The official told Gaylor the sketch was of an American POW/MIA reported alive in Hanoi years after the end of the Vietnam War.

The American was seen by a Vietnamese defector, nicknamed "the Mortician," who had gotten to know the faces of two U.S. servicemen held in Vietnam years after the war. Everything in the former Vietnamese government official's story had checked out; he had passed a polygraph examination; and the Pentagon was convinced he was telling the truth.

Perhaps most shocking, the Mortician had reported his evidence in 1979. For more than 10 years, the U.S. government had information indicating that her only child — the beloved son she called "Bubba" — could be alive in Hanoi. But no one ever told her.

The Mortician is really a chubby Vietnamese man of Chinese descent named Tran Vien Loc, who fled Vietnam in April 1979 after a wave of anti-Chinese persecution. In 1974, Loc, an expert in POW remains, was asked to travel several blocks from his office to the department in charge of POW issues. It was there — at Office 22, Group 875, Department of Military Justice, General Political Directorate, Headquarters Ministry of Defense at No. 3 Duong Thanh Street, Hanoi — that Loc saw for the first time living U.S. servicemen kept in Vietnam after the war. He

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looking for him, years during which he could have suffered or even died — the government had hidden this sketch from her and the other POW/MIA families.

Soon the President, struggling in his 1992 campaign for re-election, was before Gaylor and other POW/MIA families gathered for a convention in Virginia. No doubt confident that he commanded the loyalties of these conservative, military families, Bush launched into yet another boiler-plate POW speech, full of vague promises and lofty generalities, with the usual pledge that accounting for U.S. POW/MIAs was a top administration priority.

It was more than many of the families could take.

Mothers and wives and brothers and

sisters rose to confront their commander-in-chief. They shouted demands that the President open the huge secret POW files and negotiate seriously with Vietnam and Laos to free their captives.

Gaylor thrust forward a picture of Charles and cried out to the President: "No more lies! No more lies! Tell us the truth!"

The POW relatives certainly got the attention of President Bush, who snapped at them to "shut up and sit down!"

"I know there's doubt and I know people are saying... right from the heart, go over there and bring them back. Do you think if I knew of one single person and where he is and how it was that I wouldn't do that. Of course I'd do that," the President declared.

Mark Sauter, a former infantry and special forces officer, is an investigative correspondent with American Journal, a nationally syndicated television news magazine. Jim Sanders is a freelance writer who has written about POWs for The San Diego Union and The Washington Times.

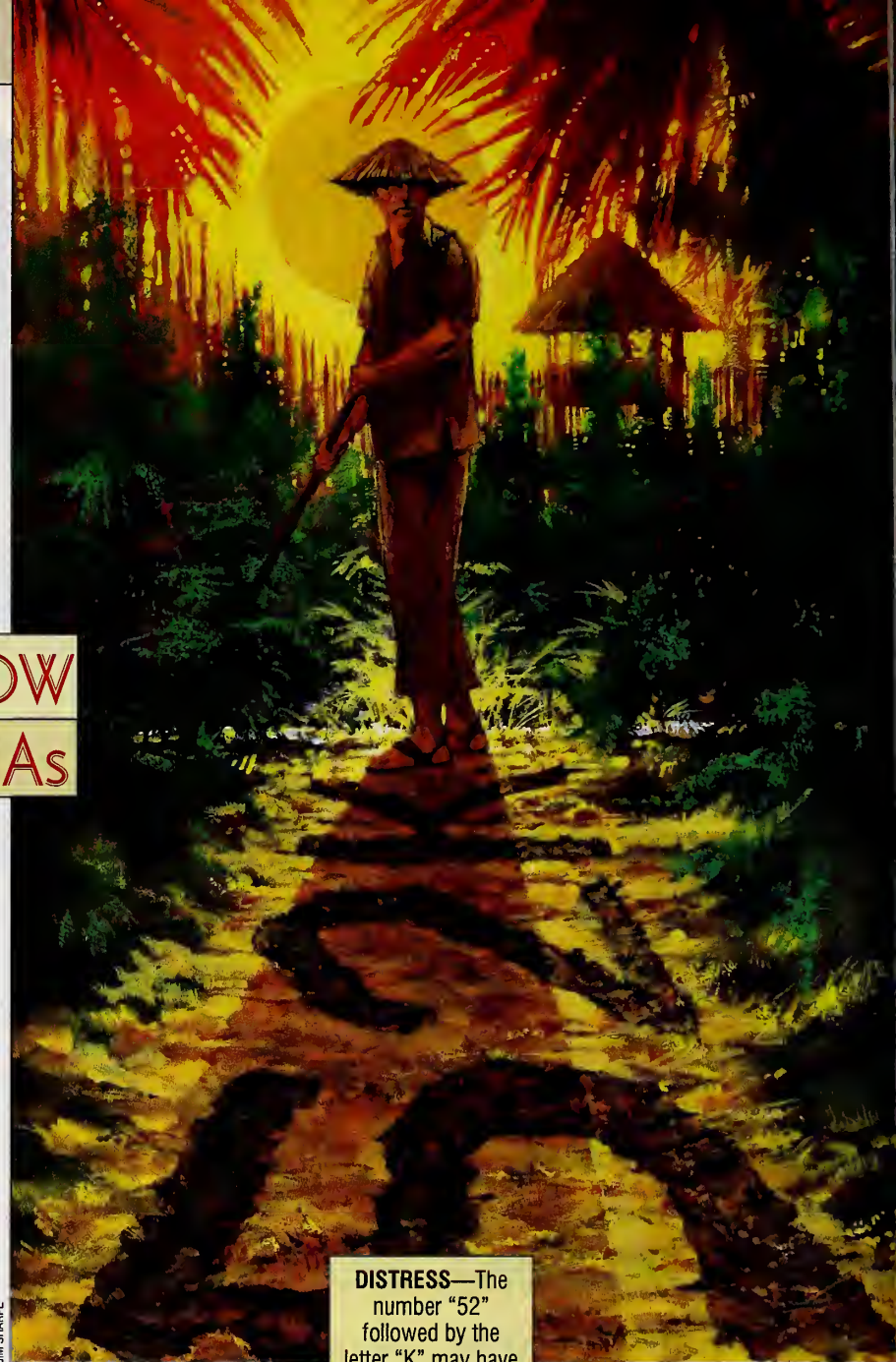
See No Evil

BY LATE 1979, the evidence was clear that American POWs remained alive in Laos. Several refugees fleeing the country claimed they had seen the U.S. captives, and their accounts held up under Pentagon lie-detector tests. And recently intercepted communist transmissions concerning the U.S. POWs had electrified the Pentagon. "Col. Picinich [of the Defense Intelligence Agency] was visibly excited about recent events. It is the opinion of that office that U.S. POWs are in fact still alive in SEA [South-east Asia]," wrote a Pentagon official following a Dec. 12, 1979, briefing on the intercepted messages.

The intercepted transmissions were backed up by new and strong evidence from human sources, who were telling the Pentagon about U.S. POWs still alive in a specific area of Laos. One of the U.S. agents was later described as "a sensitive source with unusually good access." This "sensitive source," reportedly a Laotian woman with access to top communist officials, provided a series of reports detailing the presence of up to 30 American POWs at one Laotian camp alone.

In November 1979, a second source confirmed there were American POWs in the same facility. The source who passed a polygraph exam, got the information from a guard at the camp, who said one of the POWs was Lt. Col. Paul W. Mercland. There is no POW/MIA with that name, but experts thought the name might really be a garbled version of Paul W. Bannon, a U.S. Air Force POW/MIA. (It was later learned that the Central Intelligence Agency also had its own report of a Caucasian prisoner at the camp, but the CIA apparently did not share its intelligence with the Pentagon.)

Based upon its human sources, the Pentagon trained its spy satellites on the region. There was an immediate hit. The imagery confirmed the location of a mysteriously isolated prison in the region. Based upon the photography, CIA analysts determined the camp was built between April 1978 and September 1979, and occupied by December 1980.



POW
MIAs

DISTRESS—The number "52" followed by the letter "K" may have been a POW's desperate plea for rescue.

The camp, whose rustic features soon earned it the Pentagon nickname "Fort Apache," was located in a clearing off Laos' Route 12. It was divided into inner and outer areas, both protected by stockade-type fences. The outer fence was about six to 10 feet high. Behind this outer wall were crop fields, guard barracks, a trench, a machine-gun post and two observation towers. The towers, with platforms 10 to 12 feet up, were positioned so guards could look into the camp. The inner compound, also surrounded by a tall fence, contained five buildings, including two large barracks.

CIA experts confirmed the camp

was designed to keep people in, rather than keeping guerrillas or animals out. But

there were two other striking things about the camp. First, according to some reports, the photos indicated that certain of the prisoners were much taller than others in the camp and rested by sitting with their ankles crossed rather than squatting Asian-style. They also used tools that were too big for the average Laotian.

The second remarkable thing about the camp could be seen in the vegetable plots between the inner and outer fences.

It was what appeared to be a big "52."

"Each number is 1-2 meters wide and 3 meters high. The two numerals appear to be shallow depressions. . . . The location of the numerals is such that they most likely cannot be seen from either of the two observation towers because of trees located in the line of sight," the CIA reported. In addition, it appeared possible that the letter "K" followed the "52."

In other words, it looked as if someone had hacked a signal into the ground that could be seen from the air but not from the camp's guard towers. Said the CIA: "It is thus conceivable that this represents an attempt by a prisoner to signal to any aircraft that might pass overhead."

The significance of the "K" was obvious — it was a sign used by downed American pilots to signal distress. The "52," although a much clearer signal, had a more elusive meaning. Some experts thought it represented the number of POWs in the camp. Others believed it was intended to show B-52 bomber crewmen were being held there. Another source claimed that "52" was a secret symbol used by U.S. briefers on maps of Vietnam during the war to denote U.S. POW camps, so they wouldn't be bombed by B-52 crews.

Whatever it meant, the "52" was apparently a man-made signal in a camp reported by other sources to hold U.S. POWs. The satellite photos sent the Pentagon scrambling to develop plans for a rescue operation. But it was already too late.

Perhaps the communists learned of America's interest in "Fort Apache." Or maybe they were just practicing good security. Either way, the National Security Agency soon intercepted a communist radio transmission concerning U.S. prisoners held in Laos. The message went out to communist field units on Dec. 27, 1980: "Refer to the Politburo, Ministry of Defense, that because U.S. and Thai POWs have been identified by [censored by the Pentagon] they be removed from Attopou Province. Aircraft will pick up POWs at the airfield on 28 Dec. at 1230 hours."

The "sensitive" Laotian source later confirmed that because of security concerns, the U.S. POWs were moved to Vietnam by the end of January 1981.

By February 1981, the "52" had begun to fade away, along with any hope of rescuing the American POWs once held in "Fort Apache." □

The Shredded Truth

SEN. BOB SMITH had more hair, the truth about America's POW scandal might have been exposed long ago.

The rapidly balding Smith — 6-foot-6 and well over 200 pounds — has never been accused of being a blow-dried, Kennedyesque type of politician. Instead, he's a plain-spoken, rock-ribbed conservative from New Hampshire, a Vietnam vet nationally known



IN COMMITTEE—Some staffers say Sen. John Kerry wanted to bury the truth about POW/MIAs.

for his efforts on two main issues: cutting government pork and fighting for the truth about U.S. POW/MIAs.

In March 1991, Smith began pushing a new proposal that the Senate establish a select committee to investigate the POW issue. Into the sudden media spotlight butted the immaculately coiffed head of Sen. John Forbes Kerry (Mass.), a man whose visage and ambitions bore no small resemblance to President John Kennedy. But Kerry's profile was not associated with courage by POW family members and activists. During the spring of 1991, Kerry, a veteran and former anti-war protester, had pro-

nounced that: "It [the POW issue] has got to be put to bed — for the sake of those families, for the sake of this country and our politics, and in order to move on."

Of course, everyone knew that Kerry was no POW expert. But that didn't matter, because the big-haired senator had a critical attribute needed to seize control of the Senate's POW probe — he looked good on TV. Kerry joined Smith in helping push the bill establishing a POW committee. By early August 1991, the Senate had voted to form the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, and Kerry had been designated its chairman.

According to at least four staffers from the committee, Kerry — determined to restore relations with Vietnam — used his position to ensure the full truth about U.S. POWs would never be known. As one senate investigator concluded: "If I ever see the United States Senate again, I hope it will be in hell. Because I found nothing but dishonesty up there."

Internal Senate and Pentagon documents show that Kerry and his supporters on the committee leaked their plans to the very Vietnamese and

U.S. agencies that the committee was supposed to be investigating. Those agencies, especially the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, in turn kept critical POW information from Senate investigators. "It was so bad, that if it wasn't malicious, it was an incompetence or a fail-

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FACE-OFF—President Bush fends off angry POW/MIA families during his re-election campaign.

GEORGE GILDER

RIDING THE INFO EXPRESS

"Telecomputing" technology will quickly change our work, our health, our schooling and our daily lives, says this pathfinder of the information highway.



GENERATION ago the average middle-class American family had a TV set, a clock radio, a telephone and maybe a typewriter.

Now the TV's connected to a VCR and a cable system; the telephones are attached to an answering machine at home and a fax in the office; and the typewriter has become a personal computer.

These new devices have made life more convenient — we can pick from scores of TV channels; more complicated — who has mastered programming their VCR?; and more expensive — some of the most successful cable services are those buy-at-home channels.

But coming soon will be the next explosion in communications: Machines that combine TVs, telephones and computers will be connected with high-volume fiber optic cables to networks of information and entertainment.

The next decade should be the most explosive era for technological advance in all human history, according to George F. Gilder, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute in Seattle. Gilder has been called a visionary, a "free-market futurist" and a "computer-age prophet" for his books, *Wealth and Poverty* (1981) and *Life After Television* (1992).

He believes the new world of telecommunications will have enormous positive benefits, especially for the individual who will be empowered with instant access to knowledge and information. In this interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Gilder explains how "telecomputers" will bring about the end of the Post Office, reinforce family life and give parents "complete control of the education of their children."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: We are reading and hearing a lot about a new telecommunications

world that combines cable, telephones and computers. What does it mean for us?

GEORGE GILDER: In the next five years there are going to be literally so many possible sources of information, news and communications that the whole idea of TV channels is going to disappear. You are going to be able to tap into databases and get what you want instantly.

For parents, it means they will have complete control of the education of their children. Through "telecomputers," parents will be able to summon the best teachers on the face of the earth to their homes and the best educational materials that confirm their cultural values and keep pace with the talents of their children.

It will become less attractive to send children to a public school where they begin the day by putting a condom on a banana.

It means parents in the inner city can do this as well — open the lives of their children to the whole world, summon teachers from around the country, attend churches far from home and instill the highest moral values and aspirations. They can even study difficult courses at universities. It is a bigger gain for the people in the inner cities than it is anywhere else.

Q. How will it affect families?

A. It will reinforce family life because it allows cottage industries to return. The home can once again be a center of production, rather than merely a place of living. A work station at home can assume the communications power of a broadcast station. In the future, anybody who has anything important to do will stay home to do it.

The Post Office will go away. You'll be able to receive checks, movies, books — information of all kinds — through the new technologies. Newspapers will be received



through panels on a computer screen.

Q. But there is a natural resistance to change. For example, if people are watching sports now, why would they want to watch anything other than sports in the future?

A. Maybe they won't. However, if they do watch, they will control when they want to watch it. The telecomputer will be much more efficient in supplying the information you want when you want it.

After all, information is what life is about. Once society learns how to provide food and minimal physical security, the next steps in human fulfillment are all related to ideas, concepts and information.

Today, much of this information is controlled by others, by networks, newspaper conglomerates, publishing houses and government. Just as centralized computerized systems have completely been overthrown by the personal computer, so will centralized broadcasting, publishing, educational and medical-care systems be obsolete in the age of telecomputers.

Q. You mention medical care? How will the new technology make a difference there?

A. It will give you the power to tap into medical resources all across the country as you wish. You will have a variety of tools connected to your computer that can take your temperature, pulse and all the various indicators of your health. You will be able to get a physical without

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H I G H L I G H T S

George Gilder On...

Telecomputers: "There are going to be so many possible sources of information, news and communications that the whole idea of TV channels is going to disappear."

Health care: "It will give you the power to tap into medical resources across the country and get a physical without going into the doctor's office."

Education: "Parents will have complete control of the education of their children and the educational materials that confirm their cultural values."

Work: "Telecommunications will reinforce family life. The home can once again be a center of production, rather than merely a place of living."

C O M M E N T A R Y

THE THREATS OF **CHINA'S** EXPANDING **POWER**

As China's economy grows, so does its desire to become the dominant Far East power. But can its dictatorship survive in a capitalist economy?

By Brian Crozier

THE CHINESE People's Republic invites "scenarios" even more, perhaps, than the ex-Soviet Union. Let us look at some of the most tempting ones: the economic superpower; the naval/military superpower of the Pacific; the collapsing giant; the return to feudalism.

Based in London, freelance writer Brian Crozier specializes in international affairs. His article, "What The West Needs To Know," appeared in the June 1992 issue.





PHOTO

FREE MARKETS AND MUSCLE— China's economy may surpass America's soon (left, entrepreneurial hawkers sell trinkets). China's aging leader, Deng Xiaoping, wants military growth, too. He has expressed interest in buying a Russian Kiev-class aircraft carrier, above—a shift from a coastal to a high-seas navy.

The economic superpower. Last year, the economy of the Chinese People's Republic (CPR) grew by nearly 13 percent—way beyond that of the United States, Japan, Germany, France or Britain. Many commentators conclude that in the next century, the CPR is bound to supplant both the United States and Japan as the world's biggest economy—and with a population already beyond 1.2 billion—as the world's biggest market.

That economic expansion may be amazing, but it also may be unhealthy in some respects. In the first quarter of 1993, prices rose by 35 percent in Shenzhen, Deng Xiaoping's showpiece "special economic zone" bordering on Hong Kong.

The situation is open to interpretation. At a recent symposium in Hong Kong, professor Li Yining of Beijing University argued that in China as a whole, during the first quarter of this year, the economy expanded by 14 percent with inflation at only 8 percent. The professor said that as long as this ratio was maintained, China's economic growth would remain healthy.

A dissenting voice came from Tai-

wan, where Kao Koong-lien, vice-chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, declared that the money supply on the mainland was overheating. This was also the view of that august news magazine, *The Economist*, which declared in a recent issue that China was heading for a bust.

Neither authority mentioned the key question, which will affect all four of the scenarios we are looking at: Can a totalist political system survive in a capitalist economic system? I shall come back to that one.

Naval/military superpower. There is no doubt the Chinese People's Republic is determined to become the dominant power in East Asia and the Pacific. Until the collapse of the Soviet communist system, the two superpowers of the Soviet Union and the United States blocked any such ambition.

THE LOOSE Commonwealth of Independent States that succeeded the Soviet Union, though dominated by Russia—a great power in its own right—is no superpower. The United States still is, but the closing of the American bases in the Philippines does mark a declining U.S. presence in the Pacific region.

There is no shortage of signs pointing to expansionist plans in Beijing:

- Last year, Zhao Nanqi, director of the General Staff Logistics Department, outlined a new plan for ultimate control over the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. China's naval strategy will change from coastal defense to "defense of the high seas," operating from Leoning, Zhanjiang and a base near Shanghai.

According to the German news-magazine, *Der Spiegel*, Zhao's plan appeared in a top secret memorandum. A significant quote read, "We can no longer accept the Indian Ocean as only an ocean for the Indians."

- According to the authoritative, Hong Kong-based *Far Eastern Economic Review*, during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Beijing in December 1992, Chinese leaders expressed interest in purchasing one of the Russian Navy's Kiev-class aircraft carriers. Earlier, they had failed to buy the 67,000-ton carrier Varyag from Ukraine. This clear interest in aircraft carriers is not new. In 1985, the CPR

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DENG XIAOPING

BETTMAN INSET: AP/WIDE WORLD

CHECK FRAUD

A NEW KIND OF THIEF STEALS YOUR GOOD NAME TO ROB BANKS AND BUSINESSES.

By Mubarak S. Dahir

IN THE modern era of impersonal mega-banks and casual customer attention to banking statements, check swindlers are stealing money in a new-fangled crime wave that could forever alter the definition of bank robbery.

Take, for example, the case of a Philadelphia man who asked to be identified only as Paul. In June of 1992, he left his driver's license and credit cards locked in the trunk of his car. When he returned, he discovered his car was broken into and his dri-

ver's license and credit cards missing. He immediately filed a police report and called his bank to cancel the stolen cards.

"I thought it was all taken care of, that if [the thief] tried to use my credit cards they'd catch him, and that was the end of it," says Paul. He had no idea that nine months later the theft would still be plaguing him.

About two and a half months after the incident, Paul got the first of what would eventually turn into an avalanche of letters and phone calls from creditors across the country. Capitol Recovery Associates (CRA), a collection agency in Harrisburg, Pa., wrote and politely asked him to remit the \$106.29 of a returned check he'd written to a store.

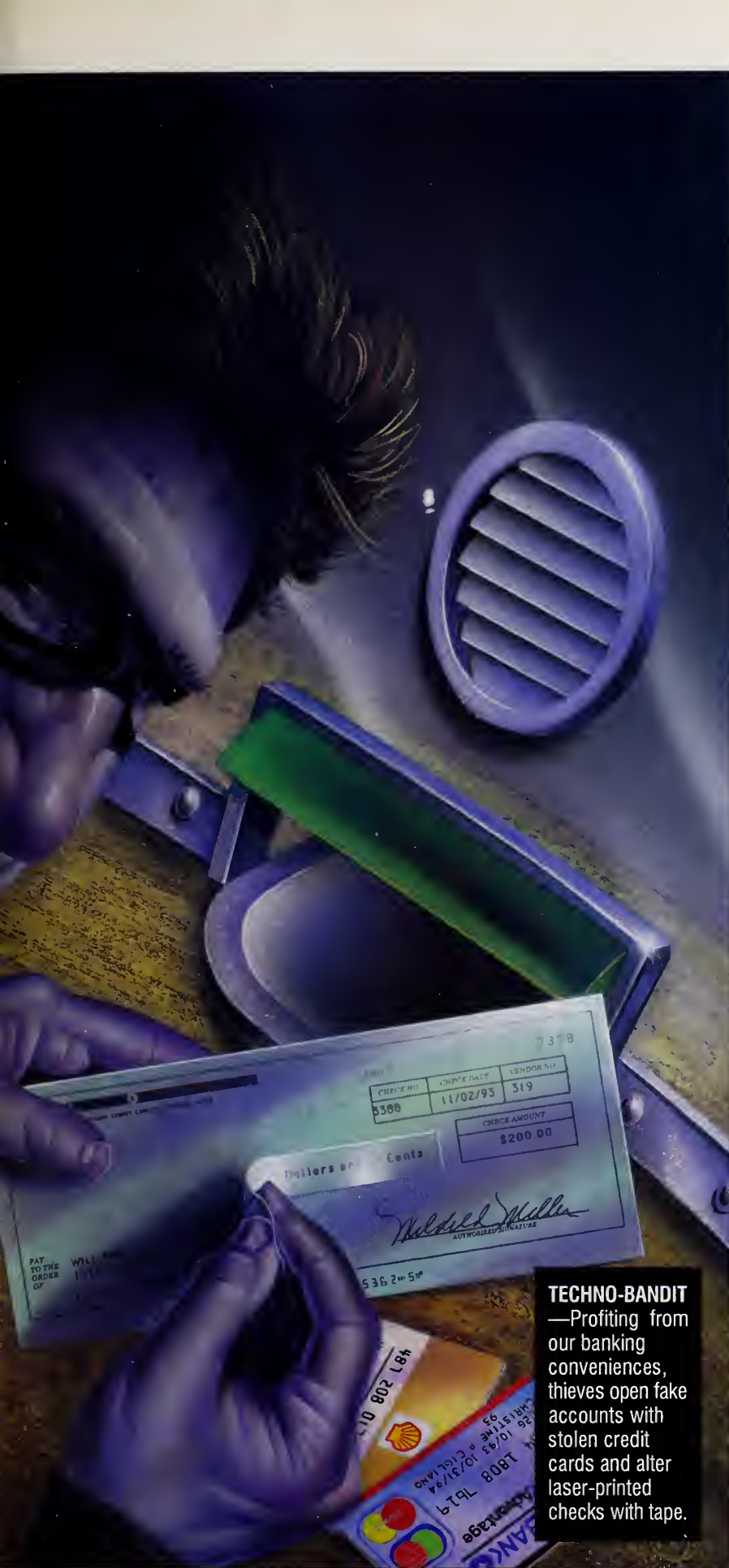
Although it was Paul's name on the bad check, the address wasn't his, nor was the signature. The check was written from an account Paul had never opened — from a bank he had never been in.

Paul later found out that while the thief hadn't tried to use his credit cards to charge anything, he had used them as identification to open an account in Paul's name at Meridian Bank.

Paul was a victim of the newest form of robbery — check fraud, a growing crime wave that costs American banks and businesses almost \$3 billion a year.

By the time it was over, more than 100 fake checks had been written to illegally buy thousands of dollars of merchandise in a cross-country shopping spree, all in Paul's name. There was an awful lot of paper out there floating around with my name on it,"

Mubarak Dahir, a Pennsylvania freelance writer, is a former columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.



PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CHECK FRAUD

- Reconcile your bank statement promptly. You'll find the missing money months before you get a call from a collection agency.
 - When writing checks, keep dollar signs and numbers close together. Even the smallest gaps might allow crooks to squeeze in additional numbers and change the check amount.
 - Keep names and written amounts hard left, and write in a solid line from the end of the name all the way over to the right of the check. Again, space could allow thieves to add an additional name to the check, thus creating a new identity.
 - Guard your checkbook like cash.
- M.S.D.

says Paul. "It was real scary."

As soon as Paul got the first report that someone was writing bad checks in his name, he called the CRA collection agency to inform them he had never written such a check. Thus began Paul's long nightmare of phone calls and paperwork to clear his name and protect his credit rating.

First, he had to file a police report and send notarized affidavits to about a dozen collection agencies, stating that he never signed the checks and that he had no account at Meridian Bank. Then he contacted the bank so they could close the fraudulent account. As an added precaution to protect his real accounts at another bank, he asked his bank to require anyone withdrawing money under his name to produce a U.S. passport. Finally, he called the credit bureau to alert them to what had happened and check that his credit rating had not been adversely affected. In this case his credit rating had not been hurt because Paul had taken the proper steps and notified the collection agencies.

TeleCheck Services Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, was one of the many collection agencies that tracked down Paul for the bounced checks. "You wouldn't believe how much that happens," says Laura Hughes, TeleCheck's associate vice president. "It's one of the primary ways people steal these days."

Jeanne Bechtel, investigative coor-

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TECHNO-BANDIT

—Profiting from our banking conveniences, thieves open fake accounts with stolen credit cards and alter laser-printed checks with tape.

By William Matthews

FOR THE better part of a century, Panamanians have dreamed of being fully independent. At noon, Dec. 31, 1999, their wish is set to come true.

For that is when the Panama Canal Treaty goes into effect. Twelve hours before the turn of the century, the last American troops must depart Panamanian soil and the Panama Canal will become Panamanian property.

It is an event Panamanians have long desired, loudly demanded and even fought and died for.

But as the date approaches for the United States to depart, a growing number of Panamanians and some Americans question whether Panama is ready to fend for itself. For most Panamanians, the immediate worry is a practical one — jobs. The departure of American troops from nearly a dozen military installations along the Panama Canal will throw more than 5,000 Panamanians out of work.

And for Panamanians who work on the canal, the pending American departure means an almost certain decrease in their salaries, now pegged to U.S. wage scales. In addition, there is uncertainty about their retirement pensions and health-care benefits, which are linked to the U.S. civil service system, and also questions about on-the-job safety, now ensured by high U.S. management standards on the canal.

But there is a bigger worry, one most government officials in Panama and America are reluctant to discuss.

What will happen to the Panama Canal when Panama runs it? Only a scattering of influential Panamanians have been willing to state publicly what many fear privately — that Panamanian management may mean disaster for the Panama Canal.

William Matthews covers national security for the Army Times newspapers. His article, "America's Shrinking Military," appeared in the August 1993 issue of this magazine.

The worst fears of diplomats and business leaders may come true on Dec. 31, 1999, when the Panamanian government takes control of the Panama Canal.

LOCK OUT

"I would hate to see these enormous assets turned back to Panama and see them go to shambles," Panama's Second Vice President, Guillermo "Billy" Ford, said in 1992. Ford suggests that the United States and Panama consider delaying the U.S. departure from Panama and the turnover of the canal.

And Juan Sosa, a former Panamanian ambassador to the United States, warns his fellow Panamanians they cannot run the canal the same way they have historically run their government. Canal managers and administrators must not become political pawns, installed and removed with each shift in the fortunes of Panama's leaders, he says.

"If Panama appoints canal adminis-

trators and top officials at the rate its ministers are changed, the operation of the canal will be doomed," says Sosa.

While alarms are beginning to sound in Panama, the U.S. government clings tenaciously to the position it adopted in 1977 when President Jimmy Carter negotiated the Panama Canal Treaty. Officials at the State Department and the Defense Department insist they see nothing on the horizon to suggest the United States should reconsider pulling out of Panama by the end of 1999.

But American businessmen have a different view.

"I hope they'll be able to run the canal, but, frankly, I doubt it," says Ernest Corrado, president of the American Institute of Merchant Shipping.

As a former chief counsel of the House Merchant Marine and



Fisheries Committee, Corrado is intimately familiar with the Panama Canal and the treaty to turn it over.

"We were always opposed to the treaty," he says, referring to the House committee. But the House does not get to vote on treaties, only the Senate does. "It passed by one vote in the Senate," Corrado ruefully says 16 years later.

THE TREATY is the product of "rampant anti-American ideology on the part of the Carter administration," says L. Francis Bouchee, president of Council for Inter-American Security Foundation, a Washington think tank.

Carter and his deputies were intimidated by anti-American riots in Pana-



SHIP SHAPE—The S.S. Ancon, left, was the first ship to use the canal when it opened in 1914. Despite its age, the canal still is a vital waterway, as more than 14,000 ships passed through its locks in 1992.



ma and then plagued by "the Vietnam syndrome," Bouchey says. They were driven by the belief that the United States was responsible for most of the ills of the Third World, he says.

The Senate ratified the treaty in 1978, and with more than two decades before it took effect, concern quickly focused on other issues.

But now, with the treaty implementation date looming, interest in the Panama Canal Treaty is reviving, Bouchey says. He predicts "Carter's incompetence is going to come back to haunt President Clinton."

Opened in 1914 after 11 years of construction, the Panama Canal is a marvel of turn-of-the century engineering. It was one of America's first

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DERAILED—Can the Panamanian government maintain the canal or will it be left to rot like the country's railroads?

G. MORRIS/BLACK STAR

CONVENTION '94



INDOOR GEM—

While at the Convention, Legionnaires may be able to catch a Twins or Vikings game.

Diamond Days In MINNEAPOLIS

THE AMERICAN Legion's year-long commemoration of its Diamond Jubilee comes to a stirring conclusion this September in Minneapolis — the site of the Legion's first National Convention 75 years ago.

Throughout the 76th National Convention, Sept. 2-8, a number of anniversary events are planned, including a mile-long parade.

"Minneapolis will be an excellent convention city for our anniversary

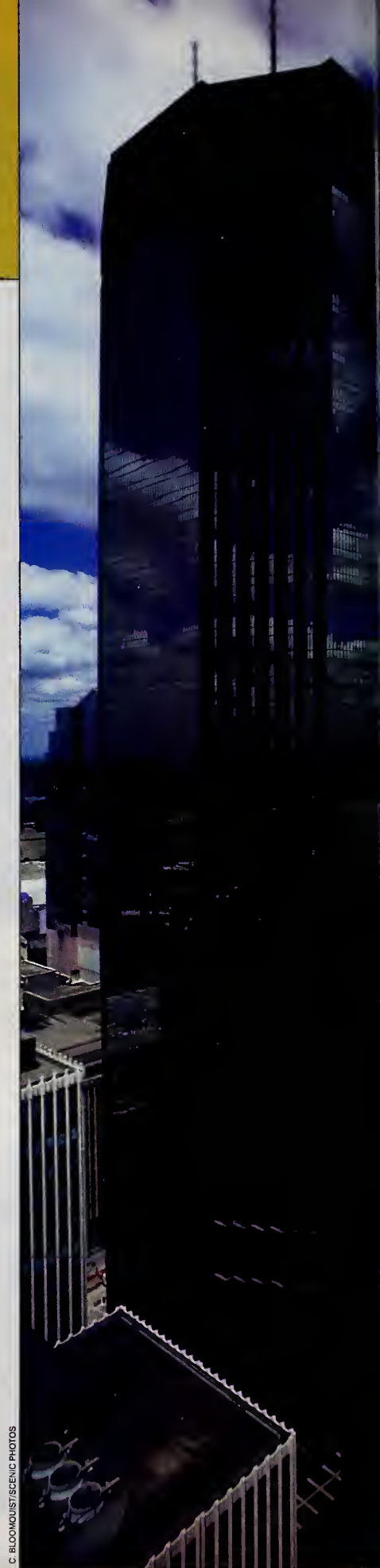
celebration," says James J. Charleston, Chairman of the Legion's National Convention Commission. "The attractions and amenities of the city offer something for all Legionnaires."

For shoppers, there's the one and only Mall of America. As the world's second largest shopping and entertainment complex, it has more than 350 stores and includes anchor stores of Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom and Sears. In the middle of the 4.2 million square-foot mall is the Knott Camp Snoopy, a seven-acre amusement park with 26 rides, including a roller coaster.

In addition to the Mall of America, downtown Minneapolis features numerous specialty shops and restaurants. It will be easy to find a good place to eat near the Minneapolis Convention Center where ethnic restaurants offer African, British, French, Greek, Italian, Oriental and Middle Eastern cuisines. And the Minneapolis warehouse district and Mississippi Live Riverplace offer plenty of night life for all tastes.

Minneapolis is home to two

SEE & BUY—
Downtown offers attractions and shops, including Orchestra Hall and Peavey Plaza.





TASTE OF THE CITY— Minneapolis has many fine downtown restaurants, such as the Palomino, top, and art treasures, such as *Spoonbridge Cherry* in the Walker Sculpture Garden.

impressive air museums — the Minnesota's Air Guard Museum and the War Birds of World War II museum. The Air Guard Museum displays about a dozen authentic airplanes, including an A-12 Blackbird, which was used by the CIA in the 1960s.

The War Birds of World War II museum features about 20 restored WWII planes. WWII pilots offer tours and tell tales of such legendary aircraft as the B-25 bomber, FG-1D Corsair and the P40-N Warhawk.

Legionnaire sports fans will have plenty to cheer about in Minneapolis. Home teams playing at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome and the Target Center include the two-time World Series winning Minnesota Twins, the National Football League's Vikings and the Timberwolves of the National Basketball Association. Nearby is the St. Croix Meadows Greyhound Racing Park, and some of the surrounding Indian reservations conduct casino-style gaming.

For golfers, there are more than 100 courses in the Minneapolis area, and nature lovers will enjoy the city park system's 22 lakes and 153 parks. The abundance of lakes, streams and rivers in the area offer visiting Legionnaires and their families plenty of opportunities to fish, swim and sail.

The Minnesota Zoo displays more than 1,700 animals from around the world in natural habitats along its six trails. Legionnaires looking for roller coasters, rides, fun and games will find them at the Valleyfair Family Amusement Park.

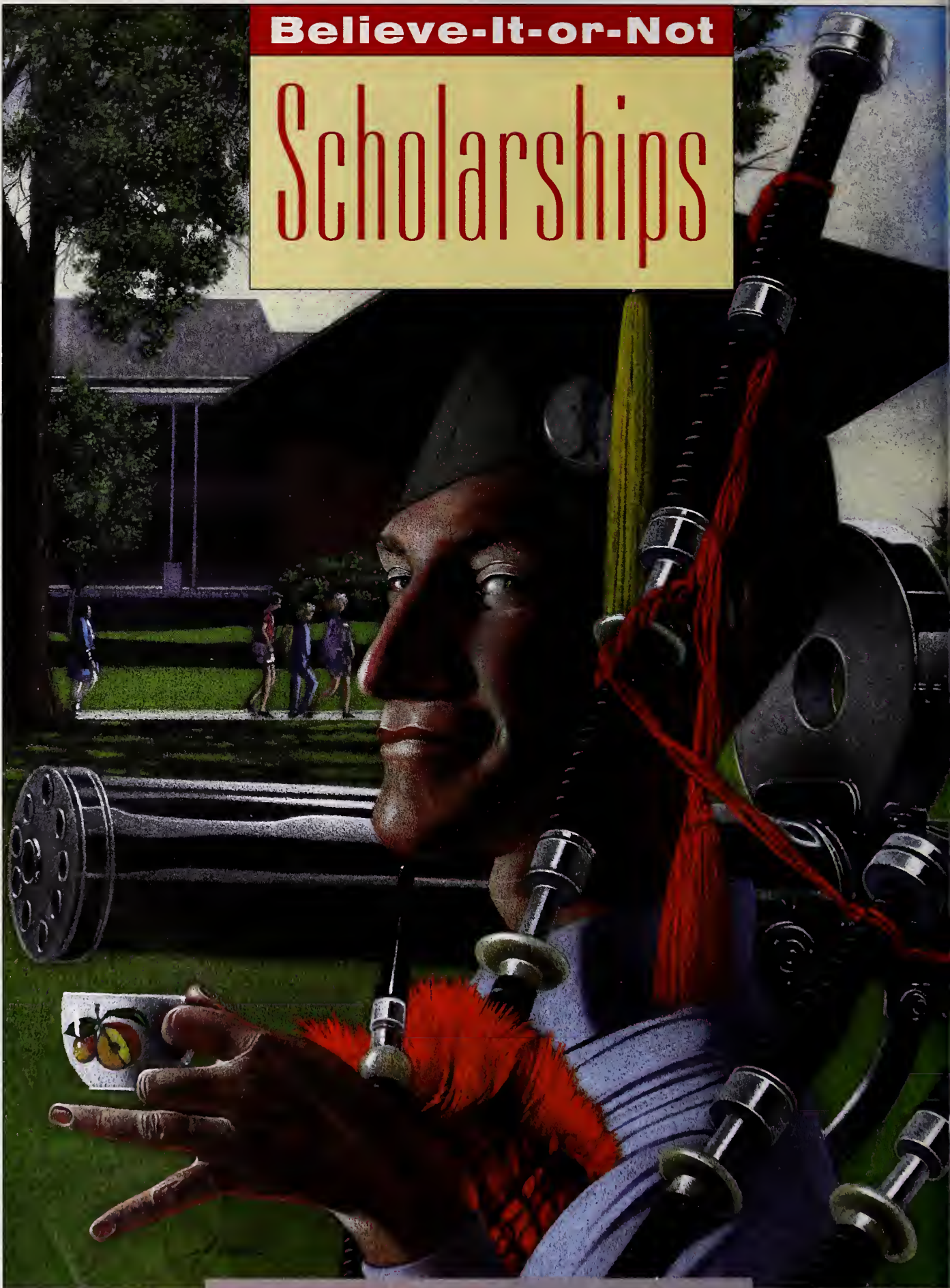
The historic warehouse district in downtown Minneapolis is home to more than a third of the city's 100-plus art galleries. The Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts feature art from renown artists worldwide. And the Walker Sculpture Garden, with the famous Spoonbridge and Cherry fountain, lets visitors stroll through a garden of modern sculpture.

Orchestra Hall is the ornate home to the Minnesota Orchestra, which presents a variety of classical and pops

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Believe-It-or-Not

Scholarships



DAVID BECK

By Hal Morris

OF THE college-bound candidate in your family is a non-smoking, left-handed teetotaler of Italian descent, born on June 12, 1979, able to play the bagpipe, build a battery-operated device and lives in Wheelock, Vt., there's a good chance of getting a little-known, believe-it-or-not scholarship for higher education.

Unusual, offbeat or specialized scholarships, fellowships and grants ease the growing burden of college education costs for children, grandchildren and even adults. Spending a little time to research available financial assistance could save thousands of dollars in college costs. Consider it a treasure hunt.

The cost of higher education jumps every year. For the most recent academic year, four-year public colleges charged an average of \$2,527 for tuition and fees, 8 percent more than a year earlier, and private institutions are up an average of 5.5 percent to \$11,025, according to a College Board survey.

Still, much financial aid abounds. Private sector funds for scholarships, fellowships and grants jumped to \$151 billion in 1992, from \$56 billion in 1987, notes Daniel J. Cassidy who compiled *The Scholarship Book*, a comprehensive directory listing thousands of college support sources.

The National Commission on Student Financial Assistance, a U.S. congressional subcommittee, found that while more than \$7 billion was available to students from corporations, only \$400 million was used. "That's not because people were unqualified but because they didn't know where to look," says Cassidy.

One place to start is the college financial-aid handbook for both veterans and non-veterans—*Need a Lift?*—published annually by The American Legion. It lists American Legion and

Los Angeles-based freelance writer Hal Morris, a news editor at Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tokyo, 1951-52, while in the Army, specializes in consumer and financial matters. He wrote the article, "Red Flags That Trigger An IRS Audit," which appeared in this magazine last month.

IF YOU'RE BORN
on the right day,
or play bagpipes,
or don't smoke,
there's college aid
earmarked for you.

American Legion Auxiliary scholarships; state financial aid; and educational aid from hundreds of schools and other organizations, including those with military links. It also offers an 800-number service and, for a fee, a database search. *Need a Lift?* costs \$2, prepaid, from The American Legion, Emblem Sales, Box 1050, Indianapolis,

IN 46206.

"It's not enough to look for national organizations that offer scholarships," according to Dennis O'Shea of the news and information office, The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "Individual colleges and universities may also have scholarships tailored to a particular student's qualifications."

But there are also many offbeat scholarships that simply are not widely publicized.

For example, unless the college-bound prospect lives in the small rural hamlet of Wheelock, Vt., there would be no knowledge of financial assistance leading to a free education at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Even though Wheelock (population 500) is 60 miles north of the Ivy League campus, the offer stems from an 1828 agreement between a Dartmouth president and the town. *For further details, contact Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755; (603) 646-2451.*

Or, consider the \$1,500-a-year scholarship in 1997 for 150 students born on June 12, 1979, to pursue studies at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). This award to the class of 2001 is tied to RIT's 150th anniversary, which was celebrated on June 12, 1979. Campus spokesman William A. McKee says RIT is publicizing the scholarships through parents and women's magazines, nursing journals and mailings to U. S. medical societies and hospitals. *Contact: McKee, Rochester Institute of Technology, PO Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623; (716) 475-5060.*

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GRAYING OF THE IVORY TOWER

COLLEGE these days isn't just for 18- to 22-year olds. Many companies reimburse employees for classes related to work.

The sluggish economy is encouraging unemployed workers to head back to the campus to further their education. About 42 percent of all college students are older than 25 and many organizations are interested in mid-career development students, says Daniel J. Cassidy, president of the National Scholarship Research Service and author of *The Scholarship Book*.

Among campuses and programs aiming at these "non-traditional" college students:

The California State University system waives admission and registration fees to California residents over age 60.

The Orville Redenbacher's second start scholarship program offers financial assistance to adults over 30 seeking initial entry or return to college.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute biological sciences education program covers tuition and fees for 23 minority and nontraditional students (those students age 25 and above who are married or have children) in life sciences at Kansas State University, Manhat-

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VETERANS AND THE HEALTH-CARE PLAN

VETERANS currently eligible for VA medical treatment who choose a private health-care provider under President Clinton's national health-care plan will still be able to get free VA care for their service-connected injuries or illnesses.

This is one of the many details to be worked out in HR 3600, the administration's Health Security Act which has been introduced in Congress.

"While much of HR 3600 is just as VA Secretary Jesse Brown described it in November when he was interviewed by THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, there are some very important changes in the bill since then," says American Legion National Commander Bruce Thiesen.

One change is the language concerning self-employed veterans with service-connected disabilities. Originally Brown said that, under the President's plan, these veterans would have their health-care premiums refunded if they chose VA as their health-care provider. The bill's new language says the premium would not be refunded, only reduced somewhat, based on the veteran's net profit.

Most changes to the 1,300-page

bill, however, simply clarified language in the original proposal. HR 3600 clearly defines which veterans are not required to pay premiums or other cost-sharing charges for any treatment. They are:

- Service-connected veterans, regardless of the percent of VA disability they have been awarded.
- Veterans discharged from active duty due to disability.
- Military retirees who are eligible for service-connected disability, but choose to accept retirement pay instead of VA compensation.
- Ex-POWs.
- Veterans of the Mexican-American War or World War I.
- Needy veterans, as described in section 1722, Title 38, United States Code.

All others will be subject to premiums, copayments and other miscellaneous charges.

For the first time, VA will be allowed to keep money collected from veterans and their health-care providers. Any reimbursements received for treating nonservice-connected veterans will go into a VA-managed revolving fund. VA will continue to receive federal funds to treat service-connected or needy veterans. However,

any money collected from these veterans or their health-care providers must be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

HR 3600 also states that eligible veterans will continue to receive VA medical benefits that are provided for under current law, but not covered under the administration's health-care plan.

However, some sections of the bill still require clarification. One of them deals with veterans who become Medicare-eligible. The bill says once that happens, they are no longer eligible for coverage under the Health Security Act.

"Presumably, this means that at this point, Medicare will pay for all care rather than other health-care plans the veterans may have," says Thiesen. "But the language is very vague."

"It is important to note that HR 3600 is just now entering the legislative process. The likelihood of the bill making its way through both the House and Senate exactly as written is unrealistic," Thiesen says. "However, we are very pleased that the bill closely follows *An American Legion Proposal To Improve Veterans Health Care*, which was given to President Clinton and Congress some time ago."

Veteran Generation Shift

According to *American Demographics* magazine, 1993 marked the first time Vietnam veterans outnumbered WWII veterans in the United States.

Of the nearly 27 million U.S. veterans, 8.2 million are from the Vietnam War; 8 million from World War II; 6.1 million, peace-time veterans; and 4.7 million are veterans of the Korean War. There are about 25,000 surviving World War I veterans. Currently, there are 1 million Gulf War veterans, but the number will continue to grow until Congress officially ends the Gulf War period.

The Vietnam veteran population should also continue to increase due to the VA's strict definition of a veteran. According to VA, the official record

keeper on the veterans population, active duty military personnel are not considered veterans until they leave the service. Most military careerists eligible for retirement are Vietnam veterans.

According to American Legion membership records, some 1.49 million Legionnaires are veterans of World War II and about 800,000 are Vietnam War veterans. There are also 676,000 Legionnaires who served during the Korean War; 32,000 from Panama, Lebanon, Granada and Persian Gulf; and more than 18,000 from World War I.

Medal Inquiries

The 50th anniversary of World War II and other events marking the Korean and Vietnam wars have piqued

renewed interest in long-lost or forgotten military medals and citations. To receive information on medals and citations, write to: National Personnel Records Center, Chief (your service) Branch, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

For Merchant Marine information, write: Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, Room 7302, Department of transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Cemetery Hot Line

The National Cemetery System has a toll-free number for veterans or their dependents to inquire about VA's headstone and grave marker program. The number is (800) 697-6947. Phones are manned Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. □

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TOP GUNS



The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program teaches America's youth gun safety and marksmanship

IMAGINE having the skill, concentration and patience to hit a bull's eye the size of a pencil point, 33 feet away. That's what thousands of American high school students are learning through The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.

The program, designed to teach firearms safety and marksmanship, has mushroomed since its inception just four years ago. There are now 315 Legion-affiliated clubs nationwide, with about 6,000 high schoolers learning to safely shoot air rifles.

About 600 shooters, ages 14-18, participated in national competitions, beginning at the Post level and moving up to the national Junior Shooting Sports Championship, which was held last year at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The air rifle competitions are divid-

ed into two categories: sporter and precision. State champions in each category compete in the qualification round to determine who will receive invitations to the national championship.

The Legion provides travel grants, housing and meal allowances for 12 shooters in each category to attend the four-day event. The winner of the precision shooting category also receives a trip to the Legion's National Convention to be honored as a Youth Champion.

The Legion's involvement in teaching youth firearms safety is not new. During the mid-1940s, the Legion conducted youth marksmanship competitions in conjunction with the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Today, 47 Legion Departments have at least one shooting club and many are continuing to promote new clubs.

"The shooting sports program is important because it's part of our con-

stitutional rights to own and bear arms," says Neil Boatwright, the Department of Georgia's shooting sports chairman. "But the most important thing taught is gun safety," says Boatwright, who keeps a close eye on the 20 clubs in his state.

The Legion's program is an excellent source for future Olympic-level shooters, says Leo Lujan, director of junior development for the U.S. Shooting Team, which is a feeder for the U.S. Olympic air rifle team.

The team endorses the Legion program "because of its quality," Lujan says. "It is one of the best youth programs out there."

One of the program's strongest points, according to Lujan, is that it allows adults interested in working with students to start air rifle programs with only a small amount of training. The Legion uses NRA-certified instructors to train the adults.

Jack Duncan, the program's national match director and member of Post 303 of El Cajon, Calif., agrees. "I love to see the kids advancing through various stages," Duncan says. "I get a vicarious thrill from seeing them shoot. It's fun."

He predicts the program will continue to boom because of the ease in setting up air rifle ranges in almost any location. "This sport gives anyone a chance to get into it," says Duncan. "If you're wheelchair bound, come up to the firing line."

Duncan also says the students who compete in the program find it helps at school as well. "This sport is important because we see grades of participants go up," he says. "The principal thing we teach is concentration. It's great because rather than a sport detracting from academics, it enhances."

"Many, many youngsters are interested in the program," says Ray Smith, Chairman of the Americanism Commission. "The problem is getting enough adult leaders willing to work with these young people."

All that's basically needed to get the program underway is space for a range and air rifles. Shooting ranges must be at least 33 feet long, plus room for the shooters and backstops.

For air rifles, the Daisy Models 853 and 853C are commonly used among

Please turn to page 61

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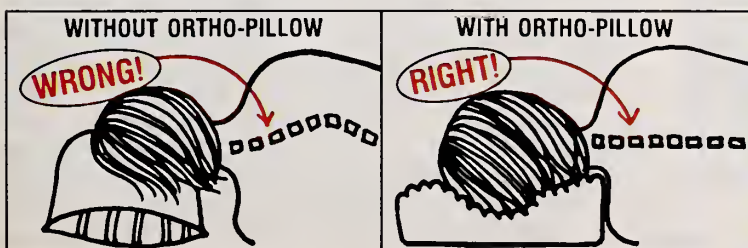


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LEGION CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEN the Doughboys returned from the First World War 75 years ago, they brought with them the vision and inspiration that would give birth to the world's largest veterans' organization — The American Legion.

During its 75th anniversary this year, the Legion is honoring the accomplishments of these visionary veterans. One of them is Clifford L. Palmer, a charter member of Post 1231 of Rensselaer, N.Y. Palmer is among more than 1,000 Legionnaires receiving certificates recognizing their 75 years of continuous membership. Some 4,400 Posts celebrating their 75th anniversaries will also receive certificates.

Seventy-five years ago on March 15, 1919, WWI veterans assembled in Paris to create The American Legion. From its first-year membership of 843,013, the Legion has grown to include more than 3.1 million veterans of all wars from WWI to the Gulf War. Today, there are more than 15,000 Legion Posts.

During its Diamond Jubilee, the Legion is conducting special events to promote the accomplishments of the organization, which have included the writing of the GI Bill of Rights and community programs such as Boys State, Boys Nation and Legion Baseball.

Speeches, press releases and other 75th anniversary promotion materials are available from: The Ameri-

can Legion Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Diamond Jubilee memorabilia are also available from: The American Legion Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Among the popular items are the 75th anniversary crystal decanter, ties, caps, pocket knives and tie tacks. Also offered is an artist-signed commemorative montage depicting the Legion's accomplishments over the past 75 years. □

75 YEARS OF SERVICE—Department of New York Adjutant Richard M. Pedro, left, and Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, Herman G. Harrington, present Clifford L. Palmer with a certificate honoring his 75 years as a member of The American Legion. A WWI veteran, Palmer is a charter member of Post 1231 of Rensselaer, N.Y., where he signed up Harrington in 1946. Palmer lives at the New York State Veterans Home in Oxford, N.Y.



Buick Offers \$400 Rebate; Baseball Program Benefits

ANY MEMBER of The American Legion or The American Legion Auxiliary who buys a new Buick from a U.S. dealer between Feb. 15 and May 15 will save \$400 and cause a \$100 donation to be given to a local American Legion Baseball team.

"We've reached an agreement with Buick that will benefit Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and American Legion Baseball at the same time," said National Commander Bruce Thiesen.

"Make your best deal on a new Buick and then show the dealer your current Auxiliary or Legion membership card," he said. "Buick will not only reduce the price of the car by \$400, but will also donate \$100 toward

one of the premier programs of our organization — American Legion Baseball."

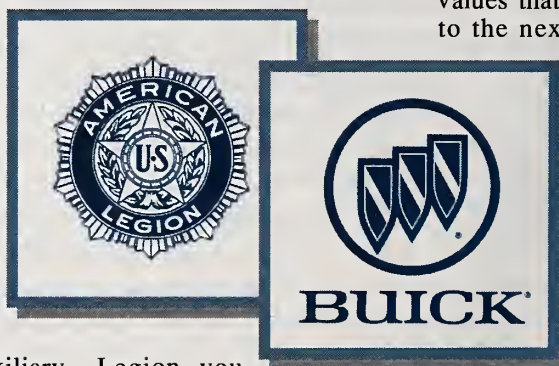
"When you think of Buick and The American

Legion with The American Legion family," said Coletta, "is the beginning of two great organizations working together to maintain the ideals and values that we can pass on to the next generation of Americans."

This is the second Legion program Buick has helped financially within the past year. The first was the National Emergency Fund which was given a

Buick to raffle off at the National Convention in Pittsburgh. That project raised more than \$20,000 to support disaster relief.

If you have questions about this special offer, or if you would like more information about Buick, please call (800) 4A-BUICK, or (800) 422-8425. □



Legion, you think of words like pride, commitment and quality," said R. E. Coletta, General Sales and Service Manager, Buick Motor Division. "Buick is building products that we, as Americans, can be proud of—products that symbolize a rebirth of quality in America.

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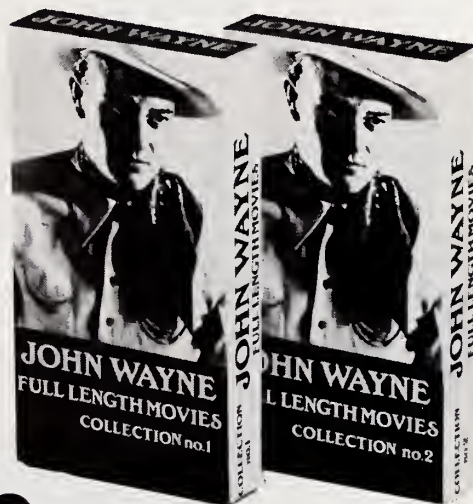


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Legion/Union Job Training Program Continues Growth

SOME 120 recently discharged veterans in Wisconsin, Iowa and Kentucky will begin job training this month under The American Legion and Laborers' Union of North America Career Transition Program. The program, which was initiated and tested last year, trains recently discharged veterans for environmental cleanup and construction work.

Of the 17 veterans who completed the pilot program last spring at the Laborers' Greenfield Training Institute in Sterling, Va., all were offered jobs.

The project caught the attention of the Department of Labor, which last fall

awarded the Career Transition Program a \$166,000 grant to expand the number of veterans in training.

The provisions of the grant, which will fund the program through 1994, require the Legion and the union to contribute more than \$200,000 of in-kind services such as staffing the program with training specialists and volunteers. Legionnaires, for example, are involved in locating recently discharged veterans to participate.

Veterans accepted for the program receive 80 hours of training from union construction and trade professionals. The training is tailored to the veterans' skills and career goals, and offers job placement help. □

Legionnaires Save Burn Victim

THANKS to two caring Massachusetts Legionnaires from the Boston area, a 9-year-old Bahamian boy is alive today.

Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer and his wife, Eileen, were vacationing in the Bahamas and heard about Claudius Burrows who was critically burned during a local Christmas festival. The boy received second and third degree burns when the costume he was wearing caught fire.

Claudius' mother, Dolly Dawkins, could not afford to send her son to a hospital in the United States, and there are no hospitals in the

Bahamas able to treat severe burn cases.

Comer, from Quincy, Mass., contacted Hank Bradley, Massachusetts Department Vice Commander, who arranged for Claudius' transportation to the States and treatment at the Shriners Burns Institute in Boston.

When Claudius arrived there, he was placed on a ventilator because of lung damage from smoke inhalation. According to one of the doctors, the boy would have died if he had stayed in the Bahamas.

Comer's and Bradley's efforts didn't end there. They also established a fund to help pay the family's transportation expenses back to the Bahamas. □

Minnesota Adjutant Retires

CHUCK Ferguson, the Minnesota Department Adjutant for the past 15 years, retired in January. The Department's executive committee appointed Assistant Adjutant Al Davis as Ferguson's successor.

"Ferguson is a dedicated servant of The American Legion," said Past National Commander Judge Daniel F. Foley of St. Paul, Minn.

Active in the Legion since 1952, Ferguson, 61, is a life member of Post 443 of Ironton, Minn. He is an Army veteran who received two Purple Hearts during the Korean War.

Davis is a Vietnam Navy veteran and a member of Post 347 of Beroun, Minn., since 1969. Before assuming the job of Department Assistant Adjutant in 1987, Davis served as Post Adjutant and Historian, and as District Vice Commander. □

Durant Awarded Life Membership

POST 233 of Ft. Campbell, Ky., awarded an American Legion life membership to Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant, who was held captive for 11 days in Somalia.

Durant, of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and his helicopter crew were shot down in Somalia Oct. 3. He is now

recuperating at his home in Clarksville, Tenn., and hopes to fly again within a year.

"There aren't too many ways we can honor those killed in action," says Post 233 Commander David Baker.

"But for a combat veteran who gave all he had and survived, a lifetime membership is about the best thing a Legion Post can do," said Baker. □



IN HONOR—Joseph M. Bossi of Post 233, Ft. Campbell, Ky., presents Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant with an American Legion life membership. Durant, a former POW in Somalia, was hospitalized at Ft. Campbell.

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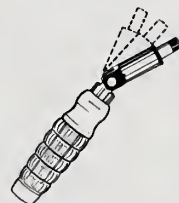
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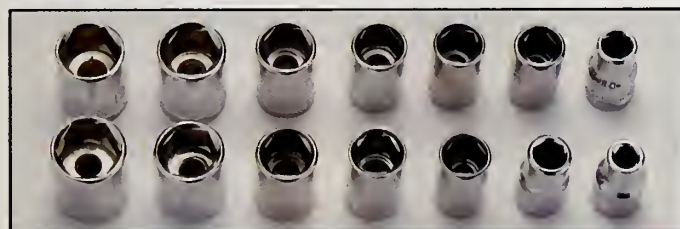
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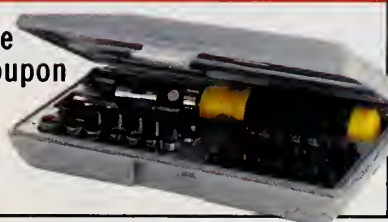


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Gulf Veterans Receive Priority VA Treatment

PERSIAN GULF veterans won an important initial victory as they seek recognition and treatment of problems associated with their service, when President Clinton signed H.R. 2535 into law on Dec. 20. The law, P.L. 103-210, grants priority treatment to Gulf veterans in VA facilities — something the Legion has been urging for some time now in its testimony before Congress.

American Legion representatives pointed out that this law only provides treatment for the current fiscal year and will have to be renewed for subsequent years.

"Why the delay?" asked Kimo Hollingsworth, the

THE LEGION IN CONGRESS

Legion's assistant director of the Legislative Division, during his testimony before Congress broke for the holidays. "These veterans need help now! Each day that you and your colleagues delay action on this legislation is critical to the lives of these veterans and their families."

Many more problems are ahead for Persian Gulf veterans who are having medical problems, the Legion told the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation in other testimony.

Speaking before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Hollingsworth took the Department of Defense to task for denying reports of Persian Gulf veterans' exposure to chemical or biological

agents. According to The American Legion, U.S. intelligence agencies are withholding valuable information.

To resolve the mysteries surrounding these veterans' ailments, the Legion urges an epidemiological study of all Gulf War veterans.

The Legion also testified on:

VA and health-care reform. Legion provided an analysis of the Health Security Act. See Veterans Update, Page 34, for more information. (House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care).

VA claims adjudication. Supports H.R. 3269 and an overhaul of the current work rate standards for regional VA offices. (House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance). □

'Col. Maggie' Receives Freedom Medal

MARTHA Raye, who entertained GIs during WWII and Korea, and spent more time in Vietnam than most troops, has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

According to Noonie Fortin, who spearheaded the seven-year Medals for Maggie campaign, President Clinton awarded the medal to Raye on Nov. 2 and Medal of Honor winner Roy Benevidas presented it to her on Nov. 17.

American Legion Res. 6, passed at the National Executive Committee 1993 Fall Meeting, urged the President to award the Medal of Freedom to Raye for her support of

U.S. troops in Vietnam. For years, she hosted GIs at her Team House on the grounds of her Bel Air, Calif., home.

Fortin says the souvenirs and gifts Raye has collected and displayed in the Team House will be donated to the museum at Fort Bragg, S.C., where arrangements have been made for "Col. Maggie" to be buried. She is an honorary Special Forces Colonel.

Raye, whose health has been failing in recent years, is recuperating from a leg amputation. Cards and letters may be sent to her at 1153 Roscomare Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90024. □

NEW AUXILIARY NATIONAL SECRETARY APPOINTED



SAPPENFIELD

PEGGY Sappenfield has been named the National Secretary of The American Legion Auxiliary. She succeeds Miriam Junge, who retired Dec. 31 after 16 years as National Secretary.

Sappenfield, the Auxiliary's National Treasurer for the past 17 years, was appointed by National President Helen Holcomb to manage the daily operations of the 1 million-member organization. She began working for the Auxiliary in 1967 as a secretary.

Through the years she has been involved in many local and national service projects. □

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 160 of Smyrna, Ga., conducts a food bank that feeds about 50 families a week.

In an all-day, Veterans Day salute, **Post 223 of Higginsville, Mo.,** organized five ceremonies in five area cemeteries. The Post's project involves placing a flag, flagpole and plaques at each site.

Post 71 of North Augusta, S.C., worked hundreds of hours to improve and then rededicate a park in their community. In an hour-long ceremony, the park was rededicated as the Wade Hampton Veterans Park. Post members helped raise money for the \$55,000 project by selling bricks in the park grounds which were engraved with a veteran's name for \$100.

Post 212 of Parma, Ohio, conducted a special dinner for member Paul Krieger, a 100-year-old WWI veteran.

To "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars," **Post 59 of Montevideo, Minn.,** painted a mural representing all war eras in their Post home.

Post 22 of Mt. Sterling, Ky., provided more than \$500 for the Goldwing Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The money will be used for color guard equipment.

Joseph D. Cremens, past **Department of Massachusetts** Commander, was appointed by Gov. William F. Weld as a Trustee of the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Mass.

Post 370 of Louisiana, Mo., dedicated a war memorial to all of those who have served. □

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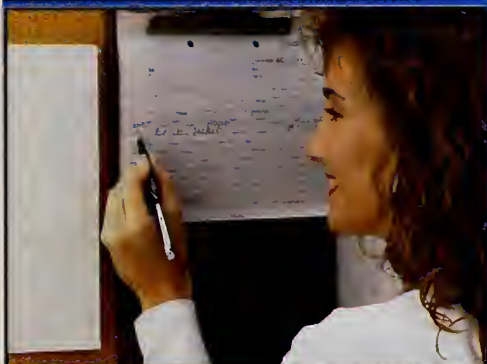
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HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 214 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 10,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

(900) 737-VETS

(900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS

operators may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Standard Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Standard Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes two minutes or less. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion. □

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000. Unit names are published one time per year.

Army

1st Arm'd Div. Assn. (Western Chapter) #12351
1st Special Forces Grp. (Okinawa) #13628
3rd Inf. Div., 7th Inf. Rgt. Assn. "Cottonbalers" #16139
5th Army Association (WWII) #13073
5th Inf. Div., 2nd Rgt. "Patton's 5th" (WWII) #21765
5th RCT Assn. (Korea 1949-54) #13404
7th Inf. Div., 17th Rgt. West (WWII & Korea) #13563
7th Inf. Div., 57th FA Bn. #15765
8th Inf. Div., 13th Rgt. (WWII) #16337
8th Inf. Div., 28th Rgt., 1st & 2nd Bns. "Black Lions" (Vietnam) #20646
12th Arm'd Div. (N. Central Chapt.) #16476
17th Inf. Div., 17th Inf. Rgt. (WWII, Korea) #15594
18th FA Bn. (Korea 1950/53) #11516
20th Arm'd Div., 20 Tnk. Bn., Co. A #20271
24th Inf. Div.: 11th FA Bn. (All Batteries) #21013
24th Inf. Div.: 21st Rgt., 2nd Bn., E,F,G,H Co. (Korea 1950/51) #12095
24th Inf. Div.: 21st Rgt., L Co. (Korea 1950/51) #12001
24th Inf. Div., 34th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I,K,L,M Cos. (Korea 1950/51) #11154
26th Inf. Div. "Yankee Div" 101st Rgt., Co. I #18675
43rd Inf. Div., 169th Rgt., Co. G (Korea) #14095
44th Inf. Div. Assoc. #13460
63rd Inf. Div., 253rd Rgt., F Co. (WWII) #14111
65th General Hospital (WWII) #15557
66th Inf. Div., 870th F.A. Bn., Hdgs. & Serv. Btry. #13501
71st Sig. Serv. Bn., D Co. (1945/46)

#22673
74th CA (AA) 370th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. (WWII) #16715
75th CA (AA) Rgt., F Btry. (1940/44) #22605
76th Engr. Cons. Bn. (Korea, 1950/53) #23016
93rd AA Bn., B Btry. #15259
96th Signal Battalion (China-Burma-India) #20027
98th Engr. Rgt. (Officers) #13048
98th Inf. Div., 923rd FA Bn. (WWII) #15901
100th Inf. Div. (FL Chapter) #15483
104th Inf. Div.: Atlantic "Timberwolf Assn" (WWII) #22779
104th Rgt. Vet. Assn. (26th Div.) #11637
105th Port Marine Maintenance #11862
114th AAA Btry. B & C (WWII) #13338
128th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #16612
150th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. (WWII) #16131
176th/228th/967th FA Bn. #13465
199th Light Inf. Bde. Assn. (Vietnam, Cambodia) Redcatcher #15322
225th AAA, S/L Bn. (WWII) #30139
231st Station Hospital (Wymondham, England) 1942-44 #16448
243rd Signal Operations Co. #15413
245th Engr. (C) Bn. #16102
283rd FA Bn. (WWII) #15643
305th CPTP (Univ. of Ark.) #13675
334th Ord. Dpt. Co. #16729
443rd Sig. Hvy. Const. Bn., Avn. #11338
469th AAA Bn. #13540
533rd EB & SR, Co. A #13347
533rd EB & SR, HQ Bn. #16356
543rd EB & SR, C Co. #16237
551st Engr., Hvy. Ponton Bn. #16303
561st FA Bn. #16587
709th MP Bn., B & C Co. (Hanau, Germany 1963-66) #13622
746th Tank Bn. (WWII) #15836
769th MP Bn. (WWII) #22506
787th Tank Bn., B Co. (WWII) #16700
807th Engr. (Lt.) Equip. Co. (Korea & Camp McCoy, WI & Germany) #12200
870th FA Bn. HQ & Serv. Btry. #13478
896th AAA Bn., 74th CA AA #20276
987th FA Service Btry. (Camp Bowie Tex) #14728

997th Sig. Serv. Bn., Oro Bay Rcvrs & Xmtrs Gp. #14084
Chem. Mortar Bn. (4.2) ETO-WWII #15805
Chosin Few (Army Chapter) #16532
CID Agents Assn. Inc. #10002
Sugamo Prison Reunion Assn. (Tokyo 1946/52) #21680
US Ranger Bn. Assn. (Iowa Chapter) WWII #13518

Navy

1st NCB #17924
101st NCB #18278
AG-(N)-9D (USS Enterprise CV-6) #13562
APB's, APL's, ARL's, YRBM's, YR's, YTB's (All Personnel, Vietnam) #13652
ARU-145 (Guadalcanal 1943/45) WWII #21941
Aviation Repair Unit #145 (Guadalcanal & AEOB Noumea) #13350
Beach Grp. 1 (ACB-1/BU-1/BMU-1/HQU-1/UDT-6&7/DROR 1945 Bch Prty Persnl #11654
CBMU-512 #18661
First Beach Bn. #13414
GRO-PAC 6: Tinian Boat Pool (WWII 1944-46) #28356
Harbor Clearance Unit 1 (Vietnam) #14608
Helicopter Reunion VX-3, HU-1, HU-2 (and all Descendant Sqs.) #18572
LCI-396 #12471
LCI (G) 439 #17354
LCI (G) 451 #13155
LCT-11 (ETO & Pacific) #13581
LSM-343 #22218
LST-1014 #20302
LST-1175 (York County) #13001
LST-398 #18173
LST-43 #12476
LST-507 & 531-Sinking/English Channel, Exercise Tiger - (Army Included) #17972
LST-508 #21368
LST-568 #17410
LST-608 #10486
LST-668 #18285
LST-754 #13354
Naval Weather Service Assn. #17839
PBM Martin Mariner & P5M Martin Merlin Assn. (All Assignments) #21625
PCER-851, USS Rockville, EPCER-851 (WWII) #13292
Port Lytautey Alumni Assn. (MCB-4, MCB-8) #12707
Scouts & Raiders (WWII) #17580
Sino-American Cooperative Org. (SACO/Naval Grp. China) #21106
Tin Can Sailors (KS, MO, IA, NE) #21810
UDT-12 #21694
UDT-12 (USS Amesbury & USS Bates) #18431
USS Alhena AKA-9/AK-26 #17344
USS Altair AD-11 Assn. #18361
USS Ancon AGC-4 #18008
USS Aucilla AO-56 Assn. #18676
USS Augusta CA-31 #18496
USS Bailey DD-492 #17507
USS Blackhawk AD-9 (BADRA) - (Including assigned DDs) #11087
USS Block Island CVE-21/CVE-106 Assn. #28294
USS Briscoe APA-65 #17878
USS Cambria APA-36 #13027
USS Cavalla SS-244 #21907
USS Chalkaskia AO-54 (1943/69) #18533
USS Chloris ARVE-4 #22031
USS Clarence K. Bronson DD-668 #17807
USS Collett DD-730 #17975
USS Cronin DE-704/DEC-704 #22730
USS Diphda AKA-59 #17934
USS Doyen APA-1 (1943/46) #18686
USS Duncan DD-485 #12305
USS Eunice PCE-846 #13402
USS Fond Du Lac APA-166 #14859
USS General H.W. Butner AP-113 #28306
USS Grallias AF-29 #13796

USS Grimes APA-172 #11978
USS Hanover APA-116 (1944/46) #20880
USS Isherwood DD-520 #21159
USS John R. Craig DD-885 #18194
USS Kallnin Bay CVE-68 & VC-3 #18465
USS Kenneth Whiting AV-14 (1943/58) #22230
USS Lawrence DD-250 (1944/45) #11828
USS Lexington CV-2 Club #18112
USS Longshaw DD-559 #17764
USS Luiseno ATF-156 #12112
USS Oconto APA-187 #11648
USS Oklahoma BB-37 Assn #17830
USS Otus AS/ARG-20 (1943-45) #11467
USS Pascagoula PCE-874 #13401
USS Quincy CA-39 (1936/42) #18546
USS Rich DDE-820/DE-695/DD-820 #11396
USS Robert E. Peary DE-132 (WWII) #13476
USS Salamaua CVE-96 (Incl. VC-70 & VC-87) #18471
USS San Pablo AVP/AGS-30 #22038
USS Schuykill AO-76 #17529
USS Shasta AE-6 (1942-69) #22572
USS Shea DM-30 (WWII) #10309
USS Shubrick DD-639 (WWII) #17881
USS Smalley DD-565 (WWII/Korea) #17959
USS Sterett DD-407 #17664
USS Stockton DD-646 #18241
USS Superior AM-311 (WWII) #12819
USS Swenning DE-394 #18398
USS Sylvania AFS-2/AKA-44 (WWII-Present) #11206
USS Tamalpais AO-96 #12617
USS Thomas E. Fraser (DM-24) #13284
USS Thomason DE-203 #18297
USS Utah BB-31 Reunion Assn. #14523
USS Warrick AKA-89 (WWII, Korea) #17852
USS Willard Keith DD-775 (WWII) #22302
USS Xanthus AR-19 #18262
USS Yakutat AVP-32 #20464
USS Yamall DD-541 (1943/55) #18444
USS Yorktown Engineers (CV-10/CVA-10/CVS-10) #21623
VP-772 Navy Patrol Sq. (Korea, 1950) #13101
VR-24 Det., VR-25, FASRON-76, Special 200 (London, Eng.) #13545

Air Force

2nd Bomb Wing, 49th Bomb Sq. - SAC (1947-63) #14010
6th Photo Tech / 548th Recon. Tech. Sqdn. (Yakota, Japan 1947/50) #11341
36th Air Police Sq. (Germany, 1948/53) #12504
41st Bomb Gp., 820th Bomb Sq., 7th AF #13462
43rd MR & R Sq. #15171
825th (C) Def. Sq., "Hard Chargers" Assn. (Little Rock AFB) #30052
850th Aviation Engrs. #15157
Aviation Cadets (Hawthorne Field, Orangeburg SC, 1941-45) #13434

Army Air Force

4th Ferrying Grp., ATC: Nashville & Memphis (WWII) #13061
8th AF, 3D SAD, Watton, England (WWII) #16803
8th AF, Historical Soc., OH Chapter #13630
49th Ftr Grp Assn. Hq. Sq./Ftr. Ctrl. Sq. & 7th/9th Ftr. Sq. (1941-Present) #16929
63rd Airdrome Sq. #13255
69th "Werewolves" (WWII, Korea, Desert Storm) #14858
73rd Bomb Wing, Assn. (20th AF: B-29 Grps. & Assigned Units/Saipan WWII #17001
307th Bomb Grp (HV) #22817
339th Ftr. Grp. (8th AF, Sta. F378,

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INFO EXPRESS

Continued from page 23

going into the doctor's office.

Increasingly, people are going to be wearing portable heart monitors, and they will constantly send a stream of information to some point where a computer scans them for abnormalities or danger signs and sends the results back to the person wearing the device.

Q. You've also outlined possible changes in education. But former Education Secretary William Bennett points out that students were doing better educationally in this country before the advent of television and computers. How will telecomputers change things for the better?

A. It's the technology. The theme of my book, *Life After Television*, is that television is top-down technology. TV is a tool for tyrants. It allows tyrants to pander and manipulate masses of couch potatoes.

You can identify a free society from a communist or totalitarian society by comparing the number of TV sets with the number of telephones. Unlike TV, telephones are two-way communication devices which empower people rather than empower some tyrant or conglomerate.

Even if you are a conservative who detests most TV programs, if you see something particularly lurid on Oprah you will probably end up spending a couple of minutes on it. That is how it works. This kind of system rewards sensational prurient programming.

If you have infinite competition, however, the whole environment changes. You no longer have to settle for what happens to catch your eye. You can choose what you most want and at that point you will never turn to Oprah.

Q. But is there any evidence that computers have made any difference in how students learn?

A. To the extent they're used in the existing school system, I don't think they do much good. They're positive when they're used to fulfill the aptitudes of individual students. They're exceptionally effective in teaching math and science at the individual student's pace, rather than a pace geared to the slowest child in class.

We teach at least one of our children at home every year. I find computers extraordinarily efficient at teaching math. My daughter, for example, can move at the pace she wants. As soon as she understands something, she can move ahead. A teacher has to go at an even pace that frustrates half the children in class at any particular time. At home, I'm in control. I'm not giving up my kid to the secular, hedonist machine that is destroying our schools.

Q. When will all these changes happen?

A. It is happening now, and in the next three or four years there will be tremendous changes. Not too long ago, I predicted technological change for the year 2000 that is going to happen next year or the year after — for example, the availability of national broadband fiber and cable connections.

Q. Some people still can't even program their own VCRs. Yet, you're talking about interactive TVs, telecomputers and all these networks. It's overwhelming.

A. It apparently is not overwhelming for the average American. If you sell 36 million personal computers in 1993, somebody is buying them, somebody is using them. Kids are using them. Kids are very familiar with computer technology.

It is not an elite technology at all. It is a generational technology. The new generations all use it. The fact is that the computers can be ubiquitous and increasingly simple to use. Much of the accelerating microchip capabilities will be devoted to increasing the user friendliness and accessibility of computers. I just don't think that's a problem.

Q. What's responsible for these rapid changes?

A. A lot of the investments and technologies were launched during the Reagan years and now are coming to fruition.

Many of the technologies have come to the fore in the military, transforming weapons systems. We saw them in the Persian Gulf War. These changes are now accelerating through the private sector and will have a dramatic impact on economic growth and opportunities for the next several years.

Fiberoptics, for example, was invented and developed here. We are number one in fiberoptics. We have

about 10 times as much fiber installed as the Japanese do. And it started with Michael Milken. Milken lent \$2 billion to MCI back in the early '80s at a time when AT&T was predicting that long distance would turn to fiberoptics sometime around the turn of the century.

Q. What is the impact of this change politically?

A. It will have the perverse effect of saving the Clinton administration from its failures. Bill Clinton has the incredible luck of coming into office at the time of the fastest technological progress I can remember. It really does make a big difference.

There will be economic growth despite bureaucracy and higher taxes because the dominant technology in society is in the process of a million-fold rise in cost effectiveness.

I also think it helped President Bush, even though his regulatory and tax policies were quite bad. He was saved by the increasing advance of technology, and it is gaining more momentum now. It is now reaching consumers.

Q. But won't the regulatory and tax burdens slow down these changes?

A. Regulations are pretty bad. But the computer industry is relatively unregulated and the spearhead of all these advances. Both the computer industry and the cable industry have been able to lead the way. Today, the telephone companies are fabulously rich but hamstrung. However, even the phone companies are being emancipated so they can participate more and more.

It is going to be an exciting, competitive arena. The government will try to take control of it and take credit for it and pervert it to its own purposes. That is why there is a constant war against big government.

Q. You have made it obvious that you are no fan of TV. But, how many TVs do you have in your home?

A. I don't have a TV antenna in my home. I have a TV that you can use for a VCR. TV is just bad for kids, and I have four kids. I almost never want to watch TV. I don't miss it at all.

But, I do have lots of computers and my kids use them. I think television technology is bad for kids, period. Anybody who lets their kids watch TV is making a mistake. □

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CHINA

Continued from page 25

had acquired the Australian carrier Melbourne officially for scrap, but in reality to study its design.

On March 3, 1993, the Hong Kong daily *South China Morning Post* reported from military sources that China's Central Military Commission decided in late 1992 the country would build its own aircraft carriers. The target was relatively modest—vessels of about 30,000 tons would be built in the technologically advanced shipyards at Dalian and Qingdao.

From the same sources, the *South China Morning Post* reported that China had bought at least two dozen Russian SU-27 jet fighters two years earlier. Since then, the Chinese have been negotiating with Moscow to license SU-27 technology from Russia. This makes sense because the Russians were already training Chinese pilots at Wuhu, a Chinese air base near Nanjing.

Logically, these measures have an economic as well as a military pur-

pose. Assuming continued economic expansion, China will become a major importer of Middle East oil, and the oil routes will need to be protected. Also, according to the *Morning Post*, China is now seeking permission from Burma and Iran—both friendly to the Chinese regime—to build naval bases in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf.

Myanmar (Burma's new name) shares with China a dismal record in human rights. This contributes to the rapprochement between the two countries, one symptom of which has been Chinese aid, probably including financial credits and the provision of Chinese technical personnel. The Chinese are now assisting Myanmar in the building of a new naval base on Hang-gyi Island at the mouth of the Bassein river. Both countries may be expected to benefit from such facilities.

Can a global price be put on the overall cost of these projects? As always, there are no easy answers. In March 1993, Beijing announced an increase of five percent in its military budget, and declared reassuringly that this would merely cover food and other basic necessities for its 3.2 million troops. The military budget, however, does not include new equipment or weapons research. These and other

relevant items are hidden elsewhere in the national budget.

The collapsing giant. The late "Great Helmsman," Mao Dzedong, established the Chinese People's Republic on the basis of victory in the civil war, and the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, as modified by Mao. The victory endures, although, interestingly, talks between the Beijing and Taiwan authorities were held earlier last year in Singapore.

The doctrine, however, is simply incompatible with the economy's transformation into China's version of capitalism.

MAO used to call his old companion of "the long march," Deng Xiaoping, a "capitalist roader" and Deng was in disgrace during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. However, Mao is dead and Deng imposed his capitalist road on a very reluctant ruling Communist Party.

Early in 1992, Deng toured the southern province of Guangdong to make speeches in favor of the market economy, but tied himself into an ideological knot by declaring repeatedly that "socialism" would be strengthened. To vary the metaphor, Deng's policy is an attempt to square the ideological circle.

This will prove no more possible in politics than in math. In authoritarian countries, it has already been demonstrated that dictatorship cannot survive a free economy. This happened to Spain within a year of Franco's death in 1975, and again in Chile, well into General Pinochet's rule. China will probably be the first such demonstration in a totalist country.

No one can predict how it will end, but the indicators are that capitalism has come to stay and that the party's continual reiteration of its discredited doctrine will not ensure its survival.

A year ago, Beijing "People's" University announced it was dropping Marxism and "scientific socialism" from its curriculum. Instead, it would teach property management, marketing, international business management, international trade, management of human resources and taxation. China's new law on securities is taken from laws in the United States, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The health of rival Chinese leaders is relevant to the future. A year ago, Deng Xiaoping was reported to be in sprightly form, at 88 years of age. In late May, however, he was reported to be in a hospital suffering from senility

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CHINA

Continued from page 48

and Parkinson's disease.

Meanwhile, Premier Li Peng, who opposed Deng's economic reforms but was overruled, has lately re-emerged after disappearing for two months. Initially, his absence was attributed to a heavy cold, and later to a heart attack. It is equally possible that he was kept away from the public view because of his private views on the reforms.

Return to feudalism? There is no tradition of democracy in China, but respect for authority is in line with that country's long history. A military dictatorship cannot be excluded, nor can a return to the warlordism of the 1920s and earlier periods.

One authority who opts for the feudalism scenario is Dr. Peter Kienhong Yu of Taiwan's National Sun Yat-sen University. Writing in the spring issue of the Washington-based quarterly, *Global Affairs*, Yu shunned the label of "warlordism" but suggested a variant, which he called "regional military separatism."

He noted that veteran news reporters on China, including Britain's Clare Hollingworth and America's Harrison Salisbury, share his views.

AFTER the Tienanmen massacre, the ruling party intensified the ideological training of the People's Liberation Army. But there are limits to the readiness of a military establishment, however disciplined, to obey a discredited doctrine.

Although military unrest in the Beijing area might prove relatively easy to control, unrest further afield, especially in the wildly expanding Guangdong area, might well prove uncontrollable. The fact that Sun Yat-sen's nationalist and republican uprising began there is historically significant.

Further back in Chinese history are other potential models for post-communist forces to adopt. The best known in the West is the moral paternalism of Confucius and his disciple, Mencius. Less known in the West, but not to be ruled out in the minds of post-communist leaders, is the precedent of the so-called Legalists who advocated strong centralized government, with harsh penalties and glory in war. This was in 221 BC, but Chinese memories are long.

To sum up, there can be no doubt that the present regime in China is dedicated to a future of naval expansionism with a view to strategic hegemony in the South Asia and Pacific region.

The fundamental contradiction between a totalitarian political system based on a discredited doctrine, and the extraordinary economic development resulting from a market economy, seems bound to end in a political upheaval. Should this happen, the future of China as an aspirant economic and military superpower is unpredictable. Attempts by the ruling party, after Deng Xiaoping's death, to reverse his economic policy are probably doomed to failure.

The centennial of Mao Dzedong's birth was celebrated in Beijing on Dec. 26, 1993. The Chinese president and party chief, Jiang Zemin, repeated the party line that Mao's "contributions surpass his errors." Jiang, a mere 67, and a protege of Deng Xiaoping, was staking his claim to succeed Deng, and walking a tightrope between Deng's sweeping reforms and Mao's tainted legacy.

His audience of 10,000 in Beijing's Great Hall of the People got the message and dutifully cheered. □

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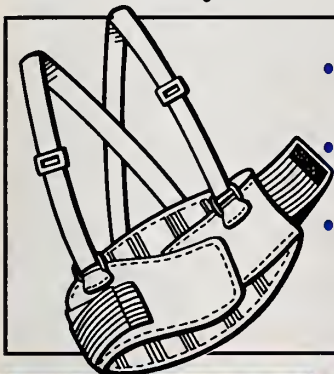
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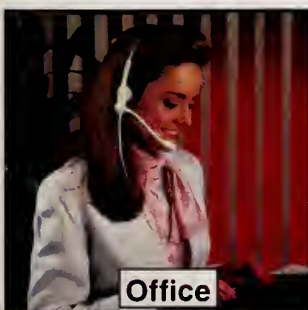
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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 33

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Descendants of the Signers. Up to \$1,500 for as many as nine students enrolled in a four-year college who can prove a direct family line to a Declaration of Independence signer. *Contact: Mrs. Phillip F. Kennedy, P.O. Box 224, Suncook, NH 03275-0224.*

Gatlin or Gatling surnames. Full scholarships from the John Gatling (inventor of the Gatling gun) scholarship program. \$6,000 is offered at North Carolina State University to those born with a Gatlin or Gatling surname. *Contact: North Carolina State University, PO Box 7342, Raleigh, NC 27695-7342; (919) 515-3671.*

Battery-driven students. The annual Duracell/National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) scholarship competition hands out \$90,000 in U.S. savings bonds to winners selected from high school students who build "any original working device" using Duracell batteries. Top awards are a \$20,000 savings bond and five \$10,000 savings bonds. *Contact: NSTA, 1840*

Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201-3000, (703) 243-7100.

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Aspiring sports writers. High school seniors who want to become sports writers can compete for a four-year scholarship of \$10,000 a year at Vanderbilt's College of Arts & Science. The money is available through the Fred Russell-Grantland Rice Thoroughbred Racing Association scholarship. *Contact: Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Vanderbilt University, 2305 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 322-2561.*

Italian heritage, railroaders, coaches. Scholarship support, provided by Associated Italian American Charities of Maryland, goes to two needy engineering students of Italian descent in the G.W.C. Whiting School of Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University. One award is for a senior or last-year graduate student.

GRAYING OF THE IVORY TOWER

Continued from page 33

tan, Kan. Stipends for books and child-care assistance are also provided.

The Business and Professional Woman's Foundation awards hundreds of career advancement scholarships to female applicants over 30 who need financial assistance.

The Agnes Drexler Kujawa memorial scholarship funds a \$1,000 award for single mothers, at least age 30, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. — **H.M.**

Among many other undergraduate awards at Johns Hopkins are the Annual Frederick Edgar Blaser scholarship which goes to the child of a worker employed by Baltimore and Ohio Railroad or Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad for at least five years; and the Baltimore Orioles Scholarship, which is available to needy students pursuing teaching and/or coaching careers. *Contact: Ellen Frishberg, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218; (410) 516-8028.*

Scottish arts. The College of Wooster provides a four-year scholarship of \$2,500 a year to Scottish dancers, drummers and bagpipers through its Scottish arts program. Competition requires an in-person audition or on-tape performance. Winners are expected to participate with the Scot band during the spring tour and football season. *Contact: Office of College Admissions, The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691; (800) 877-9905.*

Widget developers. Creative college students involved in projects leading to inventions that can be patented are eligible for annual awards totaling \$100,000 from the BFGoodrich Foundation. *Contact: The National Invention Center, 80 W. Bowery, Suite 201, Akron, OH 44308.*

Aerospace women. Amelia Earhart fellowship awards are granted to women seeking graduate studies in aerospace-related sciences and engineering. The fellowship is named for the internationally famous flier who disappeared in a 1937 around-the-world flight. *Contact: Zonta International Foundation, 557 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60661; (312) 930-5848.*

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 52

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Architects. An architectural design competition, sponsored by the New Jersey Institute of Technology's School of Architecture, nets the winner a five-year, full-tuition scholarship worth \$25,000 for a New Jersey resident, or \$55,000 for a nonresident. *Contact: Mark Hewitt, competition coordinator, School of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102; (201) 596-3080.*

Among other little-known scholarships:

- Columnist Art Buchwald, who left the University of Southern California as a junior to seek his fortune in Paris, coordinates a fund that awards \$5,000 each year to a student "most adept at humor writing." *Contact: The University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089; (213) 740-1111.*

- Special recognition scholarships up to \$6,000 a year go to "good high school students who have distinguished themselves in one or more areas." *Contact: Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820; (800) 828-2200.*

- Children of Massachusetts cranberry growers are eligible for a Urann Foundation scholarship at two- and four-year colleges and universities. *Contact: Scholarship administrator, PO Box 1788, Brockton, MA 02403; (617) 588-7744.*

- The Lee Iacocca Scholars Program, named after the former Chrysler Corp. chairman, provides \$2,000 to \$5,000 scholarships to children of full-time Chrysler workers. *Contact: Chrysler Corp. Fund, Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America, PO Box 297, St. Peter, MN 56082; (507) 931-1682.*

- Shareholders of a major utility award \$20,000 in scholarships every year to "outstanding high school students." *Contact: SCE Scholarship Program, PO Box 800, Rosemead, CA 91770; (818) 302-0284.*

For more information on scholar-

ships and grants, contact targeted colleges' admissions or financial aid offices. Among print resources to review:

- *Need a Lift?* College Financial Aid Handbook, 43rd edition. Order for \$2 from The American Legion, National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis IN 46206.

- *The Scholarship Book*, fourth edition, by Daniel J. Cassidy, Prentice Hall; \$19.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth.

- *Prentice Hall Guide to Scholarships and Fellowships for Math and Science Students*, by Mark Kantrowitz and Joann P. DiGennaro; \$19.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth. □

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Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

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CHECK FRAUD

Continued from page 27

dinator at Meridian Bank's fraud department, says such rackets "are an enormous problem, and they're happening more and more each month."

Cliff Holcomb at the Secret Service branch office in Philadelphia agrees. He says they get complaints about check fraud "on a daily basis."

But opening a false account is just one of many ways check fraud can be committed, according to Frank Abagnale. No one knows this better than Abagnale, who once passed \$2.5 million in bad checks before being caught and spending four years in a federal penitentiary.

A consultant on white-collar crime to the federal government, Abagnale also runs his own business in Tulsa, Okla., advising banks and companies on how to prevent and catch document and credit-card fraud. He says old methods of opening phony accounts include stealing checks from mailboxes, or ordering fake checks by stealing deposit slips from check books.

These days, however, affordable personal computers, laser printers, color copiers and scanners are making things a lot easier. For example, a check made by a laser printer is simple to alter. Laser printing is nonimpact printing — the ink sits on top of the paper rather than embedded in it. A thief can lift up the dollar amount or a person's name after practicing a little with a piece of Scotch tape.

It's also easy to electronically scan a check and put a good image of it in a personal computer (PC). Once the image is on the PC screen, says Abagnale, you can go in and change just about anything you want. "Add a few zeros to a check, and you've got some big bucks," he says. Or, you can clear what's already written on the scanned check and print out a bunch of new ones.

One industry expert has estimated computer-assisted check fraud is increasing by almost 100 percent each year.

"We've caught people printing up checks from PCs and printers in their cars," says A.J. Cole, vice president of NationsBank Services Inc., in Dallas.

Cole heads an American National Standards Institute committee of bankers, printers and check manufacturers who are preparing outlines of technologies and guidelines aimed at helping curb the rise of check crimes.

Methods used to combat the crime include printing checks that display the word, "VOID," in the background whenever they are copied; coding checks with holograms; and printing checks with special inks sensitive to everything from light to heat to specific chemicals.

"These things are relatively new," warns Cole. "The standard checking routines still in common practice at most banks are algorithmic equations that are easy to decipher with modern computer technology. They're really outdated."

Indeed, one thing that makes check fraud such an attractive rip-off is that — compared to robbing a bank with a gun — there are high gains at relatively low risks.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, gun-point robberies amounted to about \$50 million in 1992. Meanwhile, a recent Nielson report estimated that of the roughly \$10.2 billion worth of bad checks returned to banks due to insufficient funds, about 28 percent — or nearly \$3 billion — was money due to check frauds.

Comparing the risks is even more striking. The average bank robber steals from \$3,500 to \$7,500, but more

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than 90 percent of all gun-toting bank robbers are caught.

However, for bank fraud cases involving less than \$100,000, the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, found that of the cases referred to the FBI in 1992, less than 10 percent were prosecuted in most major cities. And a study by the American Bankers Association shows that only 13 percent of all check-fraud losses are ever recovered.

Opening a phony account is also a much easier task than holding up a bank. "Banks take certain measures to try to avoid [fake accounts]," said Bechtel of Meridian Bank. "But it's difficult to do if someone has your identification and social security number."

Driver's licenses in many states — including Pennsylvania, where Paul was victimized — now include a person's social security number. But it usually requires two forms of identification to open a bank account.

"Picture IDs are strongly advised, but they cannot always be an absolute requirement," says Andrew Hunter, a vice president at Germantown Savings Bank in Philadelphia. "Very few people have more than one photo ID," he says, "and we can't always ask for a photo ID because there are people without a driver's license. We can't deny someone an account on those grounds."

Hunter says there are precautions that a bank can follow to catch suspicious accounts before it's too late. As well as asking for several forms of identification, he says banks can ask for a telephone number and address when the account application is being made.

During the time between the person's visit to the bank and issuing checks, the bank can send a "courtesy" letter thanking the person for his or her business, or make a call to the phone number. If the letter is returned in the mail or the telephone call fails to reach the individual, "that's an immediate red flag," he says. Hunter says these steps can be taken in addition to standard security checks on anyone opening a bank account.

But Meridian's Bechtel says in cases such as Paul's, a security check is often fruitless. "When you run the name and social security number through the system, you're checking the victim's name and credit, not the criminal's," she says. "The victim usually has good credit."

Bank scammers can also continue to rip off businesses well after authorities are aware that bogus checks are being written. Again, Paul's case is a good

example. Paul alerted Meridian Bank about the false account as soon as the first collection agency contacted him. Although the bank immediately closed the false account, the perpetrator still had fake checks. And he was smart enough not to repeatedly write bad checks to the same stores.

If there was one bright spot in the whole affair — and Paul says there was *not* — it may be that, as long as the victims follow the paper trail to get their names cleared, they are usually not held responsible for paying the fraudulent debt. Either the bank, or more

often, the shop where the fake check was accepted, is stuck footing the bill.

"We all end up paying for it eventually," says TeleCheck's Hughes. "The consumer gets hit with store owners raising prices to make up their losses, and banks raising interest rates to cover theirs. In the end, the consumer pays for it one way or another."

Paul says the worst thing about being the victim of a bank scam is the worrying and the waiting. "You get afraid to go pick up the mail," he says. "Once something like this starts, there's no telling how long it will go on." □

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LOCK OUT

Continued from page 29

international triumphs, a boon to world commerce, and for decades, a strategic necessity for the U.S. military.

Building the canal involved carving an 8-mile cut through the rock and shale of the Continental Divide. Workers had to overcome yellow fever and malaria while constructing the world's largest earthen dam to create the lake that provides water for the canal. And it took the most advanced engineering of the day to construct six massive sets of locks.

Even now, the locks remain a mechanical wonder. At both ends of each lock are two gates, weighing hundreds of tons apiece. Yet they are so well-balanced they are swung open and shut by a 40-horsepower electric motor.

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minutes, enabling ships as large as 965 feet long and 106 feet wide to be lifted up 30 feet.

The massive gates glide open and the ships are guided into the next lock by locomotives tugging at them with wire hawsers.

The process repeats, raising ships 85 feet above sea level so they can sail 50 miles across the Central American isthmus.

Marvelous as it is, the Panama Canal today "is very, very old, archaic, ancient," says shippers advocate Corrado. "It works because we make it work. The Panamanians are not big on maintenance."

Today, the commission, which is a U.S. government agency, spends more than \$100 million a year to keep the canal and its facilities operating smoothly. But will the necessary maintenance continue to be done under Panamanian management? So far, Panama's track record at managing industrial utilities is not reassuring.

Near the heart of Panama City, lines of dilapidated railroad cars rest on rusting rails while luxuriant vines snake over their roofs and twine about their axles.

"We turned the railroad over to

them and it just flat went to hell," says Col. David Crocker, who was U.S. Army South's deputy commander for support.

Close by is Albrook Air Force Base, which was turned over to Panama in the 1980s. Its runways no longer receive planes. Now they are used "for drag races and marching band practice," says Brig. Gen. David Oakes, former commander of the 24th Wing, the Air Force contingent in Panama.

SOME argue that the fate of the Panama Canal is of decreasing importance because the canal is no longer the indispensable waterway it once was. The largest cargo vessels and oil tankers are too big to fit through the canal. So are the largest U.S. aircraft carriers.

And in recent years, a growing number of shippers have developed "intermodal" trade routes that bypass the canal, says Mark Falcoff, a Latin American affairs specialist for the conservative American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

Instead of heading for Panama, ships sail to the United States or Canada where their containerized cargo is unloaded and stacked aboard train cars. Hauled across country by rail, the cargo is then loaded on other ships for transport to its final destination.

Other alternatives to the Panama Canal are being studied as well. A Japanese business consortium is evaluating the merits of a "dry canal" comprised of a railroad line and a pipeline across Costa Rica.

In fact, a pipeline that parallels the Panama Canal now carries most of the oil that crosses the Panamanian isthmus, Corrado says. Pumping oil through the pipeline from one ship to another is quicker and more efficient than sending a tanker through the canal, he adds.

Yet, despite the pipeline and intermodal trade routes, ship traffic through the canal continues to increase each year. According to the Panama Canal Commission, 14,148 ships passed through the canal in 1992, up from 14,108 in 1991 and 13,325 in 1990.

The trend shows no sign of reversing, and according to Bouchey of the Council for Inter-American Security, "Given the growth of world trade, the canal remains as important as it ever has been."

Corrado says that while intermodal transportation works well for containerized cargo, it is impractical for cargo that does not fit into tractor trail-

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"Costs would go up something fierce," Corrado says, if the canal were not available, and bulk carriers and passenger ships had to sail around South America or transfer their cargo to trains to cross from Atlantic to Pacific.

However, as important as the Panama Canal is to international shipping, it is more important to Panama.

"The Panama Canal is the heart of the Panamanian economy," former ambassador Sosa says. But the canal means even more than that. "To Panamanians, the canal is a matter of pride," he says. And pride makes it hard for Panamanians to admit they will need help running the canal.

Corrado says Panama will have to seek outside help to keep the Panama Canal operating. Although the United States would be an obvious choice, Japan or France are more likely candidates, he says. "I frankly don't think Panama will ask the United States to stay on." It would be too great a blow to Panamanian national pride, he said.

Polls have generated calls for a referendum in which Panamanian people could vote on the question of continued U.S. presence. But there has been no move by the government to put the question on the ballot.

Meanwhile, President Guillermo Endara has been soundly criticized for failing to prepare Panama for the approaching responsibility of operating the canal.

And while Panama's foot-dragging has evoked expressions of concern by the United States, there is no change in the official U.S. position. At noon on Dec. 31, 1999, the United States will turn the Panama Canal and its military bases over to Panama and depart.

In January 1992, the Defense Department announced its plans to reduce the number of U.S. troops stationed in Panama from 10,000 to 6,000 by the end of 1995. The military said it will turn over more than a dozen sites — schools, housing complexes, training sites, clinics — to Panama and consolidate U.S. forces on three bases until the final withdrawal in 1999.

While Sosa urges Panama to turn management of the canal over to a multinational management company, Bouchey of the Council for Inter-American Security favors turning canal management over to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Bouchey says OAS oversight

would remove Panamanian politics from day-to-day canal operations and incorporate the interests of other nations that rely heavily on the canal. "There are some diehards who will want the United States to keep control of the canal, but that is politically unrealistic," he says.

From the time the Panama Canal Treaty was ratified, conservatives in Congress repeatedly have sought to overturn it. They continue to introduce legislation that would force reconsideration of the treaty, but to no avail.

Rep. Phil Crane of Illinois has led

the effort in the House, proposing bills that would abrogate the Panama Canal Treaty and require the United States to negotiate new basing rights.

But Crane's bills have yet to be granted a hearing — the first of many steps that must be taken before a bill can become law.

"We had more of a case when Noriega was there," a Crane aide says. But the Panamanian dictator was removed during a U.S. invasion in 1989, and she says since then, the American people "have not been very interested in Panama or the Panama Canal." □

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POW/MIAs

Continued from page 19

would later see the same two servicemen on numerous occasions. Loc learned the Caucasians were "progressive American servicemen" who had allegedly asked for asylum in Vietnam after the war.

The Americans might have been "progressive," but they were not free. The men "were closely supervised," Loc later told the Pentagon. And they were not alone. The assistant chief of Vietnam's POW office told the Mortician there were more Americans still in Southeast Asia.

Based upon the Mortician's account and other evidence, a top Pentagon POW expert secretly concluded the men seen by the Mortician might be Charles Duke and either civilian MIA Kit Mark or Army radioman Jimmy Malone.

While those identifications were not certain, according to Pentagon experts, there was no doubt about one thing: the Mortician had seen two Americans

who never returned from the Vietnam War. And this put the lie to years of Vietnamese and American denials that any missing GIs remained in Southeast Asia.

The Pentagon not only hid the Mortician's evidence from the American people, it also claimed in classified documents that the POW/MIAs seen by the defector were probably collaborators who may have chosen to stay behind in Vietnam.

But that argument fails to satisfy the relatives of Americans left behind after Vietnam. As Jane Duke Gaylor puts it: "I know that if my son is a collaborator, [first] they had him as a POW. He had to do what he had to do to survive."

Indeed, that is why the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War does not permit changes in the status of prisoners after they're captured, because a POW cannot be assumed to have made a free choice while still under the total control of a hostile power.

Since 1987, the Defense Intelligence Agency reports, a naturalized American of Vietnamese background working for Hanoi has been spreading the word that some Americans do want to come home, and Vietnam will let them. But the Vietnamese agent says Hanoi won't publicly announce the existence of the

THE LEGION'S POSITION

THE Legion continues to press for the fullest possible accounting of America's POW/MIAs from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War. Through a continuation of the economic and political embargo on Vietnam, the Legion hopes the United States will demonstrate a resolve to never leave GIs behind again. A plan to protect POW/MIAs in future wars has also been developed by the Legion and is being put before the Clinton administration. ☐

Americans until "a face-saving explanation can be formulated" and the POW/MIAs are offered amnesty by the U.S. government.

Yet the Pentagon refuses to offer such assurances. And despite certain knowledge that Vietnam knows the names of American POW/MIAs kept in Southeast Asia after 1973, the U.S. government has failed to force the issue with Hanoi.

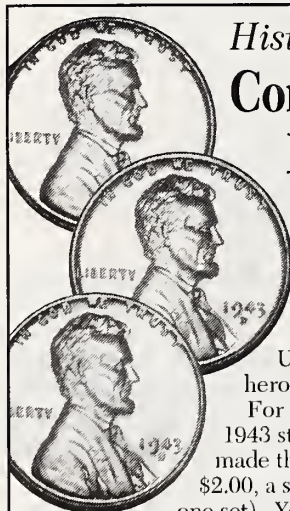
In the Pentagon's own words, written in a previously classified 1990 memo: "Major Pham Teo, who is the senior SRV [Vietnamese] Ministry of Defense representative...to the Vietnamese Office for Missing Persons, and other officials of the SRV Ministries of Defense and Interior know the identities and current status and locations of these two Americans [reported by the Mortician]."

Yet Vietnam refuses to give America that information and still publicly claims that no such U.S. servicemen remained in their country after the war. Indeed, since 1990 Pham Teo has been promoted to lieutenant colonel, and is still stonewalling U.S. POW investigators.

Rather than denouncing Hanoi for its blatant lies, top U.S. officials and senators publicly praise Vietnam for its "cooperation" on the POW issue. Since 1979, when the Mortician left Vietnam with information on Americans still alive in communist hands, eyewitnesses and intercepts of communist radio transmissions have continued to show the presence of U.S. POWs in Vietnam and Laos, both in conventional prisons and more relaxed conditions.

Jane Gaylor knows one of those men could be her son. And she knows the U.S. government hid evidence about his fate and failed to take actions needed to bring home the men reported by the Mortician. "They have lied to us," she says.

"I have been distraught. I don't know: Is this my son [in the sketch]?" Gaylor says. "[But] whether it's my son or not, it's someone's son." ☐



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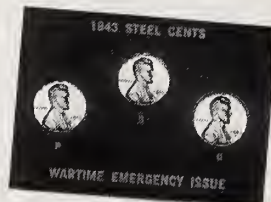
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MINNEAPOLIS

Continued from page 31

concerts. For theater-goers, Minneapolis offers the Ordway Music Theatre, which *Time* magazine declared to be "a jewel overlooking the Mississippi." Reminiscent of a classical opera house, the theater has hosted musicals, drama, ballet and jazz shows.

The Science Museum of Minnesota also will keep inquisitive minds occupied for hours with displays and hands-on demonstrations of scientific principles. The museum also features the IMAX Omnitheater, which uses the world's largest movie projector to create a "you-are-there" experience.

Minneapolis is easy to get to. The Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is only an hour's flight from most Midwestern cities and just three hours from either coast. Northwest Airlines, the fourth largest U.S. airline, is based in Minneapolis and offers more than 300 flights every day to some 200 cities worldwide.

Downtown Minneapolis is about 20 minutes from the airport, with many hotels offering complimentary or inexpensive shuttle services.

Walking in Minneapolis is a unique experience thanks to "the skyway," a series of second floor walkways that connect dozens of downtown buildings. Designed for the comfort of pedestrians during the city's cold winter months, the skyway is now nearly five miles long and continues to grow.

"This year's convention will be something to remember," says Chairman Charleston. "Don't miss the beauty of Minneapolis and the gala celebration of the Legion's 75th anniversary." □

By T. Douglas Donaldson

SHOOTING SPORTS

Continued from page 36

the clubs. Some air rifles sell for less than \$130 each, and clubs can generally buy them from the factory for a little less than the retail price. Another source for rifles is through the U.S. government's Civilian Marksmanship Office, which loans up to four Model 853s to clubs. Write to: Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Room 1205, Pulaski Building, 20 Massachusetts

Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20314.

Posts wanting to sponsor clubs have to be affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program. For the forms and information about starting a program, write to: The American Legion, ATTN: Shooting Sports, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Anyone can line up a shot and squeeze a trigger, but only The American Legion can give young people the chance to succeed in shooting sports," says Michael Douglass of Beach Park, Ill., the Legion's 1993 Junior Shooting Sports National Champion. □

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Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

Bty. C, Special Training Bn. Robert L. Huff needs witnesses to verify that on June 1, 1978, while stationed at Fort Sill, he went to Reynolds Army Hospital with foot problems. Contact CID 1233

Cat Lo, Vietnam Frank L. Tetrol III needs witnesses to verify that while on TDY from USS Granville Hall (YAG-40) at Cat Lo, Vietnam, during 1966-67, he came under enemy fire while aboard a Navy hovercraft on river patrol. Contact CID 1234.

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Mother's Thin Hair Problem

By John Peters

My mother's hair was extremely thin. She was terribly embarrassed by it. You could look right through the hair and see large spots of exposed scalp; and she had split ends. She tried everything available but nothing worked. Today, my mother's hair looks thick and gorgeous; she looks younger. You would never know she had a problem.

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SHREDDED TRUTH

Continued from page 21

ure to cooperate on a scale that is staggering," one investigator said.

Perhaps the most bitter episode in the senate investigation occurred in Spring 1992. It involved the work of lead POW investigator John McCreary, a long-time Defense Intelligence Agency employee. McCreary had served in intelligence posts far removed from the POW issue, and left a prestigious job as head of the U.S. National Strategic Warning Staff to work on the committee. McCreary was widely regarded as an exceptional intelligence officer, one of the few U.S. experts to predict Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Once on the committee staff, McCreary began analyzing the human intelligence reports on U.S. POWs in Southeast Asia. Working with other staffers, McCreary sorted the POW reports and assigned, or "clustered" them into the geographic areas where the POWs had allegedly been seen.

The idea was to focus on the information content of all the reports, as opposed to the Pentagon's process of examining each report in minute detail with an eye to debunking it. According to the Senate investigators, by analyzing the trends in almost 1,000 separate reports, the truth would emerge about whether U.S. POWs remained in Southeast Asia after the war.

As the investigators prepared to tell their senators in a special classified briefing: "This is a longstanding and proven method of analysis used by the U.S. Intelligence Community. . . This is the same method of analysis used by the U.S. Intelligence Community to track SCUD Missile firings by Iraq during the war. . . A similar process also is used in tracking SS-25 mobile missile units in the Commonwealth of Independent States."

But just hours before the briefing, on the morning of April 9, 1992, a summary of McCreary's findings was leaked to the Bush administration. Pentagon briefers rushed to the Senate, prepared to attack the senate investigators' findings before they could be fully presented to the committee.

What followed was probably one of the most chaotic briefings in the history of U.S. intelligence. The briefing room erupted in arguing among the senators, their staffers and Pentagon officials. Eventually, according to a Pentagon

memo, all the senators but Smith left the briefing while it was still in progress. The senators had walked out on the presentation of their own staff.

Had the committee's 12 senators on that April day cared to hear the report of their own investigators, here's what they would have learned: "The intelligence indicates that American prisoners of war have been held continuously after Operation Homecoming [early 1973] and remain[ed] in captivity in Vietnam and Laos as late as 1989."

The senate experts went on to say the American POWs were presumably still alive in Southeast Asia as they spoke, but definitive findings could not be made because more recent intelligence was still under review.

These shocking conclusions contradicted years of official denials by both Democratic and Republican administrations. The briefing was simply too politically hot for the Senate to handle. Copies of the report were shredded, and its conclusions were left out of the committee's final report.

The most intense investigation ever into the POW issue whimpered to a halt in early 1993. The 15-month Senate effort, backed by \$1.9 million and subpoena power, certainly could have answered many questions surrounding the POW scandal.

But instead of making clear findings, the Senate succumbed to mealy-mouthed "bipartisanship." As the English political writer George Orwell wrote: "The great enemy of clear language is insincerity." And so it was no surprise that so little clear language appeared in the committee's 1,223-page final report.

The insincerity of the Senate's effort is clearest in its answer to the central question at hand. Were Americans kept in communist prisons after the United

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Ismael Rivera, Puerto Rico Department Sergeant-at-Arms (1973-75/1976-77), Department Adjutant (1978).

Paul Ryan, FL Department Vice Commander (1983-84). William McKinley Wattles, Mexico Department Historian (1959-60/1965-66).

States left Indochina in early 1973? Concluded the Senate: "We acknowledge that there is no proof that U.S. POWs survived, but neither is there proof that all those who did not return had died. There is evidence that indicates... the possibility of survival, at least for a small number, after Operation Homecoming."

In other words, it's possible, but we can't or won't even say whether it's likely or unlikely. That way, according to the logic of politics, if by the grace of God a POW does come home, no one can say we had written him off. Meantime, we haven't created a problem for the Pentagon or White House.

Even committee staffers were surprised and disgusted at the final report. One Senate staffer, a highly experienced investigator, said: "It [the Senate investigation] had a shot at really doing something. And the chairman [Kerry] prevented it from happening."

"We left people on every battlefield in every war we've ever fought," summed up another investigator, who described what he believed the Senate committee had proven.

"The United States is callous about it. It doesn't give a crap. If you're caught, you're a loser. That's the way we think. And that's the way the government acts." □

REUNIONS

Continued from page 44

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P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Assn. (WWII) #16839
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4th Rgt. (Corregidor/Bataan) #17130
5th Mar. Div., 3rd Bn., H Co. (Pusan thru Chosin, 1950) #13430
Gallups Island Radio Assn. (Regional) #13620
MAG-11/12/14 #17166
MAG-24 & Assoc. Squadrons #22928
Parris Isl. Chapt. Mar. Corps DI Assn. (All Yrs.) #12138
USS Nevada (Marine detachment & shlpmates) #13634

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Horse/Jeep Patrol: High Island TX (1941/45) #12016
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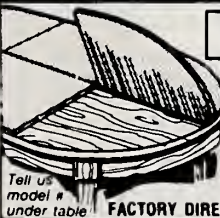
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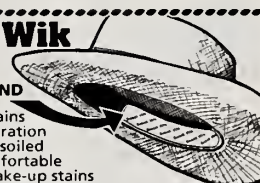
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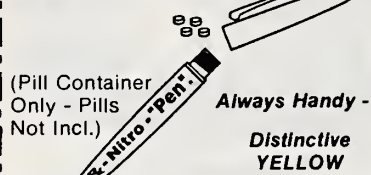
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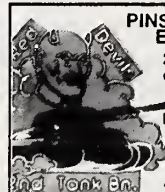
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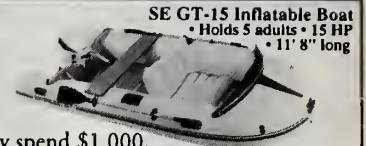
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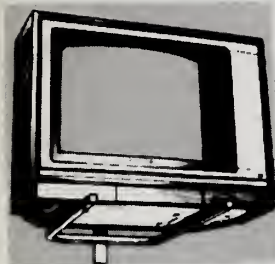
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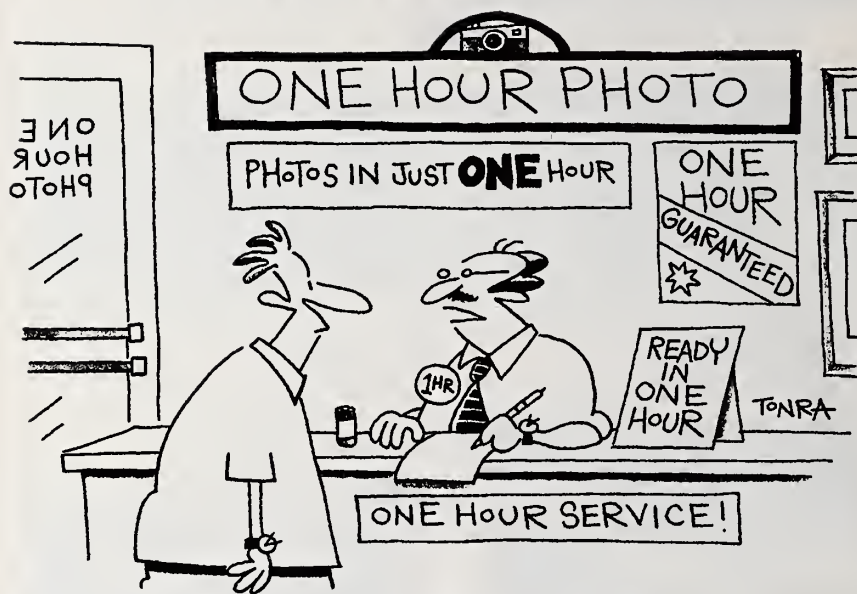
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Smoke Out

The State of Maryland is considering the nation's first statewide ban on smoking in all workplaces. If this goes through, restaurants in Maryland will be required to ask if you'd prefer to be seated in nonsmoking or in Virginia.

Drop Back And Punt

Quote of the Month: "The U.S. Congress can declare war with a simple majority, but we need a three-fourths majority to go to the john."

— Art Modell, owner of the Cleveland Browns, expressing his frustration with the National Football League's inability to agree on various rule changes.

Funny Financing

Donna: "I went to one of those alternative medicine clinics."

Dottie: "How did it work?"

Donna: "It turned out to be a sham, so I figure I'll pay them with alternative money."

Taxing Labor

According to a recent report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, driving a taxicab is the most dangerous job you can do. The report added that driving *in front of or beside* a taxi was the second most dangerous thing you could do.

LA LA Land

Los Angeles has been plagued by fire, rain, then mud slides. Hmmm, unless the schedule's been changed, next up should be locusts.

Hot Air Shortage

Parts of what used to be East Germany are "suffering" from a shortage of politicians. About 300 towns there have no one willing to run for office.

Is that the kind of thing anybody should complain about? That's like saying, "We didn't have enough malaria this year, either."

Prehistoric Preserves

Steven Spielberg is making another dinosaur-type movie, only this one deals with prehistoric food that inexplicably survives into modern times. It's called *Jurassic Fruitcake*.

Hurry Up And Wait

A Russian went into a Moscow auto dealer to order a new car and was told that it would be ready on May 17, 1996.

"Would that be in the morning or afternoon?" the Russian asked.

"Comrade, you're lucky to be getting a car at all," the dealer replied. "And, anyway, it's five years from now. What possible difference could it make, morning or afternoon?"

The Russian replied, "The plumber is coming in the morning."

Sole Responsibility

Federal officials say drinking too much alcohol and walking has become a major problem in this country, and they're urging people to take appropriate cautionary measures.

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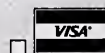
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